

# Vocation Reflections

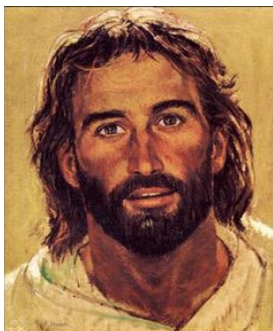
March 2024



School Sisters of Notre Dame

**Fundamentally in prayer we acknowledge, accept, and freely surrender to the reality of who God is and who we are, creatures unconditionally loved by our Creator.**

*From You Are Sent, SSND Constitution (#28)*



Artist: Richard Hook

## Who Do You Say that I Am?

In the gospels, Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” (Mt. 16:13-17; Mk 8: 27-29; Lk 9:18-21). He primes them by asking first who others say he is, but then requires of them their own answer. For each of us, it is essential that we move from a place of faith based only on what others say — what we have been taught by parents, teachers, pastors, faith community and friends — and claim our faith as our own.

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**Today Jesus asks us the same question: After having known me for so long, “Who do YOU say that I am?”**

- \* *Who is Jesus for you?*
  - \* *How have you known him in your life?*
  - \* *How would you describe your relationship with him?*
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To engage in discernment and ask the question, “How/Where is God calling me?” you must first begin to explore and answer these questions in your heart and mind. It is only in reflecting on your relationship with Jesus, your intimate knowing of him, that you are able to recognize and listen to his voice, to discern what movements in your life are of Jesus’ leading and guidance and which are not.

Jesus said to Peter that it was not of his own accord that he was able to proclaim that Jesus was the Messiah, but only by God’s revelation to him. Nonetheless, he could not have received this revelation without attentiveness and an open heart. This is true for us as well. Jesus reveals himself to us through our life experiences and prayer as we grow in relationship with him. As you reflect on your experiences of Jesus, you may find that in addition to some of the traditional responses to who Jesus is — such as savior, friend, brother, teacher, our light and salvation, our beloved — your experiences also lead you to more personal responses. Reflecting on a teenage life experience in which God responded to what now seems like a trivial need/desire, one sister shared how deeply touched she was in her remembering as she realized that in that moment she experienced Jesus as *the One who sees me*. To be seen and known is powerful.

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- *Reflect on your experiences of Jesus’ presence and action in your life. How have these experiences shaped and formed your understanding of who Jesus is?*
  - *What scripture passages/stories have taken up a home in your heart and also name for you who Jesus is?*
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As you pray, ask God to allow memories to surface that help you name and deepen your understanding of who Jesus is in your life, who you are now, and who you are becoming in relationship to him.

*Vocation Reflections is a monthly newsletter for those interested in learning more about discernment, prayer, and other topics related to the consecrated/vowed life. For questions, comments and subscription information, please contact [sisters@ssnd.org](mailto:sisters@ssnd.org).*

## Prayer ~ Calling on Sophia

*Radiant and Unfading Wisdom, your deep love calls to me. I seek you with all my heart.  
Hasten to make yourself known.*

*Sit at the gate of my heart. Teach me your ways. Meet me in my every thought.  
Attune my mind to your perceptions. Open all that is closed within me. I desire your instruction.  
I long to receive and to share your love.*

*Dance on the path of my life. Free me from all that hinders. Deepen all that attracts me to you.  
As the mystery of my life unfolds through the quickly passing years, draw my love ever nearer to you.*

*I promise to be awake and vigilant, attentive to your voice, receptive to your guidance.  
I will hide no secrets from you. Come, reveal yourself to me.*

(From *Prayers to Sophia* by Joyce Rupp. Innisfree Press. Philadelphia, PA ©2000 p. 30)

## Activity ~ A Dialogue with God

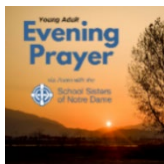


Take a piece of paper and make random scribbles all over it. As you look at the paper, identify within the scribbles the outline of two shapes and darken those lines. Identify one of these shapes as God and one as you. Write a conversation between God and you using the metaphors suggested by the images that have emerged.

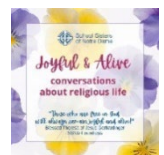
For example: A conversation between a trumpet (God) and a soaring bird (the person).

**Songs for Reflection:** [\*I Am for You\*](#) by Cooney, Daigle and Donohoo  
[\*¿Quién Dices que Soy Yo?\*](#) por Maite Losada.

### Looking ahead (Click the event title to learn more.)



**Online Evening Prayer**  
For young adults ages 18+  
Fourth Tuesday each month  
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



**Joyful & Alive Conversation**  
For single women age 18-45  
April 13, 2024  
11:30 a.m. ET / 10:30 a.m. CT



**Discernment Retreat for Single Women**  
For single women ages 18-45  
April 26-28, 2024 - in Baltimore, MD



**Summer Service Week 2024**  
For any women ages 18-45  
July 10-14, 2024  
Whole Kids Outreach in Ellington, MO




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God's cause  
is the *only* concern of  
our hearts  
Dressed  
Theresa  
of Jesus  
Catherine



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