

Vocation *Reflections*

July 2024



**O God, I desire to serve you with constant joy and total trust because you are my joy and help.
O God, I desire to love you earnestly and to make this love visible
by fulfilling the responsibilities of my state of life.**
*Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND Foundress
(Letter #2, written in 1823)*

Ministry and Discernment

Part of discerning a call to consecrated life includes an exploration of service as a way of life.

Consider these quotes:



“So it is that in accordance with the Divine Plan a wonderful variety of religious communities has grown up which has made it easier for the church...to be equipped for every good work and ready for the work of the ministry – the building up of the Body of Christ.”¹

“May the world of our time...be enabled to receive the Good News not from evangelizers who are dejected and discouraged...but from ministers of the gospel whose lives glow with fervor, who have first received the joy of Christ.”²

Scripture, too, offers insight ...

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)
[Matthew 15:32-39](#)
[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

[Mark 6:7-13](#)
[Mark 16:1-8](#)
[Luke 5:1-11](#)

[Luke 7:18-23](#)
[Luke 10:25-37](#)
[John 20:11-18](#)

For Reflection:

- What does it mean for you to minister to/with someone?
- How do you connect service and ministry with your faith?
- How does a job (whatever job you have) become a way to minister to others?
- How does reflecting on ministry contribute to your journey of discernment?



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.

Prayer

Jesus, we turn to you, our model and mentor of giving and receiving. We recall how you poured yourself out in service to those who crowded around you. We bear in mind, too, how you withdrew to the mountainsides to pray and restore what was depleted in your body and spirit. Grant us, Giver of Gifts, the wisdom, inspiration, and discipline to cultivate a healthy balance between generous service to others and compassionate care of ourselves. Amen.³

¹ Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life, "[Perfectae Caritatis](#)," no.1

² Pope Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation, "[Evangelii Nuntiandi](#)," no. 1.

³ [Prayer Seeds](#), p.134 by Joyce Rupp, Copyright 2017.

This month's vocation resource:

Read about the life and vocation of Sister Debra Sciano, SSND, an attorney:
<https://www.milwaukeeaq.com/sister-debra-marie-sciano-is-a-lawyer-and-a-leader/>.

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



Summer Service Week 2024

For any women ages 18-45

July 14-20, 2024

Whole Kids Outreach in Ellington, MO

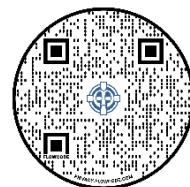
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Back issues of Vocation Reflections are available [online](#).

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God's cause
is the *only* concern of
our hearts

Blessed Thomas of Jesus Centerdinger



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