



Vocation *Reflections*

November 2024



School Sisters of Notre Dame

“Must it not be obvious to anyone who quietly looks upon the matter how wonderfully divine providence disposes all for the best of those who strive to bring about good perseveringly, with love and fidelity? Yes, truly, God is love.”

*Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND Foundress
(from Letter #1860, written in 1855)*



Photo by [John Mccann](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Remembering God's Action in our Lives

In this month of November, we are invited to give thanks, to remember how God has blessed us and been present in our lives. Often in discernment we can feel restless, feeling drawn toward God, desiring to serve some purpose greater than ourselves and desiring to do so in community with others, but not sure exactly what that means for us. Where is God calling me? In what way is God calling me to help bring about God's reign, to serve the greater good in community with others? There are so many possibilities...

One way to be attentive to how God might be speaking to your heart and calling at this moment in your life is to remember the ways God has acted, spoken and led you in your life up until now. Remembering those moments, those patterns of God's action in your life, can help you to trust that God is present and active in your life and discernment today, even in those moments when it feels like God leaves you to muddle around in uncertainty. It can remind you to be attentive and to look for those small signs, those quiet whispers, those seemingly insignificant moments that when considered more carefully offer insight, hope, and direction. The psalmists and other Old Testament writers show us the way.

**Do not forget the things your eyes have seen,
nor let them slip from your heart all the days of your life.**

Deuteronomy 4:9

**I remember the days gone before,
I ponder on all you have done;
I muse on what you have wrought.
To you I stretch out my hands.**

Psalm 143: 5-6

**I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.**

Psalm 9: 2-3

**For you, O God, are my hope, my trust O God, from my youth. Upon you
I have learned from my birth; from my mother's womb you claimed me.
I praise you forever and ever.**

Psalm 71:5-6

Reflection

What are the patterns of God's action in your life? Can you name moments when you have experienced God: A moment in nature? Words of a song that arises spontaneously in your heart that speak exactly what you need to hear at the moment? A book, article or reflection that comes just at the right time? A mentor, friend or family member who accompanies you faithfully on the journey and helps give God flesh in your life? An unexpected moment of insight? A graced, deep, truly authentic moment of prayer? Graced moments of giving to and receiving from others? Your story....?

Songs for Reflection

1. [Know You in the Now/Could it be](#) by Michael Card.
2. [Remember](#) by Cooney, Daigle and Donohoo on their album *Vision*. Rather than us remembering, this song invites God to remember God's own history of kindness and redemption and to once again respond in our times.

Prayer¹

Companionship God, grant me peace of mind and heart as I reflect on the past to see the ways you have been with me. May I look with a clear, inner eye and become aware of how you have both comforted and challenged me on my journey...Encourage me to find the many, many aspects of my life that call me to gratitude and wonder. Remind me often that I am, indeed a pilgrim on the way home to you. I need not be afraid of the wilderness and the moments of feeling lost, for you are always there as a loving Guide and Companion.

¹Rupp, Joyce. (2000). [Out of the Ordinary](#). Ave Maria Press, p. 210.

Monthly vocation resource

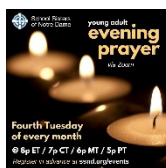
The Ignatian Examen: <https://www.jesuits.org/spirituality/the-ignatian-examen/>

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Looking ahead



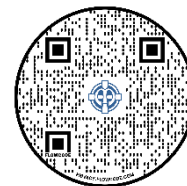
[Young Adult Evening Prayer](#)

For young adults ages 18+

November 26, 2024

December, 17, 2024

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



[National Vocation Awareness Week](#)

November 3-9, 2024



[Discernment Retreat for Single Women](#)

February 21-23, 2025

St. Louis, MO

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.