



Vocation Reflections

God's call and our response

by Sister Carol Jean Dust, SSND

*"Now, O Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace, for you have fulfilled your word and my eyes have seen your salvation, which you display for all the people to see. Here is the **light** you will reveal to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel." (Luke 2:28-32)*

This prayer was spoken by the very devout man, Simeon, when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple at 40 days to present him to God. Simeon had developed a close relationship with God over many years and, "the Holy Spirit was in him." (Luke 2:25) Forming such an intimate relationship with God over time assured Simeon that he would see the Messiah—the Light of the world—and recognize that Presence. Upon taking Jesus from Mary into his arms in the temple, Simeon then knew that Light, and he recognized the fulfillment of God's promise to him.

Our God, always in relationship and present within us, desires that we know God's light through which we recognize our divine call. To see the light of our call and respond takes time as it did for Simeon; time spent in the quiet of prayer that subsequently allows us to know and recognize God's light through daily events, moments of silence, challenges, walks in creation and surprising encounters with others. As our relationship with Jesus grows and our heart is entrusted in love, the call to follow Jesus becomes stronger. The light of Jesus shines more vibrant and the heart knows more clearly! Discernment of God's call and our response become aligned. Because our heart comes to know God's, we can then respond like Simeon: My heart has seen. You have fulfilled your word, O God. I journey forth in peace.

For reflection

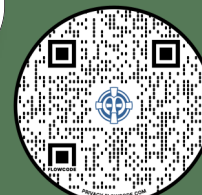
- Walk quietly outside and be attentive to what you see - a leaf wafting down silently and gracefully, a snowflake gently resting upon your face, a rosebud opening in the sunlight to reveal an inner beauty. How is God's grace working in your silence?
- Reflect with Isaiah 30:15 - "In silence and hope is strength." What do you tell God in the silence and hope of your heart? What is God saying to you?
- Where have you seen God's light today? How might it enlighten your call? What is your prayer for today?



O, Holy Spirit,

Enlighten me,
 Strengthen me,
 So that I may understand
 And know my divine call,
 Who I am, what I should be,
 And what I must do,
 As well as the means
 By which these ends
 May be accomplished.

Based on a prayer of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, SSND Foundress. Painting from 1934 Elberfeld, Germany.



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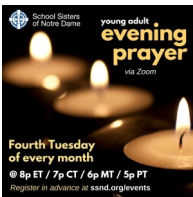
Looking ahead

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Discernment Retreat for Single Women

February 21-23, 2025
St. Louis, MO
Registration requested by February 10.



Young Adult Evening Prayer

For young adults ages 18+
February 25, 2025
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

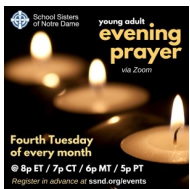


Women's Leadership Luncheons

March 3, 2025—St. Louis, MO
March 6, 2025—Milwaukee, WI
March 20, 2025—Dallas, TX
March 27—St. Paul, MN
April 10, 2025—Chicago, IL

Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
March 5, 2025

Catholic Sisters Week
March 8-14, 2025



Young Adult Evening Prayer

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March 25, 2025
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



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