



Am I called? Signs and Synchronicity

by Sister Jill Laszewski, SSND

When I first wondered whether I might be called to religious life, I had so many questions! Am I making this up? Why would I be thinking of this now? Am I being called to something or am I running away from something? A sense of “call” was not at all certain, but neither would the question go away. So that was my sign that I needed to discern, at least a little bit!

To begin, I met monthly with a spiritual director trained in discernment. A good spiritual director can listen objectively and offer insightful questions as you explore your questions and discern God’s movement in your life. It is important to bring your whole, authentic self to the discernment process, gifts *and* limitations! Let God lead, and trust the process.

For me, signs to remain in the process came from prayerful reflection, affirming insights, and by the ways in which obstacles to discernment (in my case, anxiety and doubt) were cleared. Often a freeing insight would arise from something I read, or in conversation with my spiritual director, or through encounters with others that happened at just the right moments (synchronicity).

Discernment takes time, dedication to prayer, honest introspection, many conversations with trusted others, and deepening trust in a faithful God. My discernment of call eventually led me to the School Sisters of Notre Dame, to a way of life I have now lived gratefully for nearly 28 years. God is good!

Helpful scripture readings in times of uncertainty:

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord...

Philippians 4:5-7

The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.



For reflection

- When have you had difficulty making a decision? What helped you or freed you to take a next step?
- Where / how did you feel God’s presence and/or guidance as you discerned?



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Looking ahead

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Ash Wednesday (Lent begins)
March 5, 2025

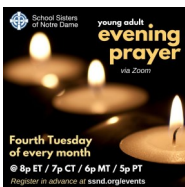


Women's Leadership Luncheons

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

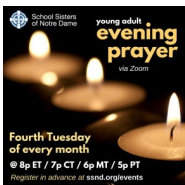
Catholic Sisters Week

March 8-14, 2025



Young Adult Evening Prayer

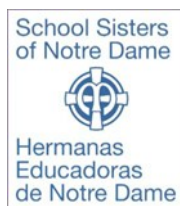
For young adults ages 18+
March 25, 2025
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT



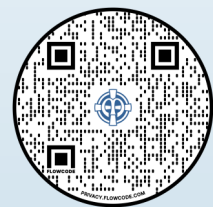
Young Adult Evening Prayer

For young adults ages 18+
April 22, 2025
8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT

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