



School Sisters
of Notre Dame

Vocation Reflections

NOVEMBER
2025

Discernment Step FIVE

Developed by Sister Sandra Weinke, SSND

Commentary by Sister Bridget Waldorf, SSND

(See the [September 2025 issue](#) for Steps ONE and TWO.)

(See the [October 2025 issue](#) for Steps THREE and FOUR.)

5. LOVE

At the end of the day, at the end of our lives, we are simply and profoundly called to love and to be holy. The state of life doesn't change that truth – we are called to **holiness**, we are called to love. Not about what you do – but who you are. Intentional, prayerful discernment will help in knowing the particular way in which we are called to love and to be holy – and we can trust that the God who created us, knows us, and loves us will not lead us astray. There is great freedom, a holy indifference even, once we can find that place of trusting God...and allowing God to lead us. In the words of Saint Augustine, "Love and do what you will." Perhaps these thoughts by Teilhard de Chardin are also of help...

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
to something unknown, something new.
Yet it is the law of all progress that is made
by passing through some stages of instability
and that may take a very long time.*

*And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.
Do not try to force them on as though
you could be today what time (that is to say,
grace and circumstances acting on your own good will)
will make you tomorrow.*

*Only God could say what this new Spirit
gradually forming in you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you, and accept the
anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete."*

~ Fr. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin SJ

What We've Read:

Consecrated life is a call to incarnate the Good News, to follow Christ, the crucified and risen one, to take on "Jesus's way of living and acting as the Incarnate Word in relation to the Father and in relation to the brothers and sisters." In practical terms, it is a call to take up his way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by the Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes. "Be guided by the humble yet joyful certainty of those who have been *found, touched and transformed by the Truth who is Christ*, ever to be proclaimed."

From *A Letter for the Year of Consecrated Life*, Section 5, paragraph 3.

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Scripture reminds us:

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

[Jeremiah 24:7](#)

Don't see yourself becoming a religious sister? Think again:

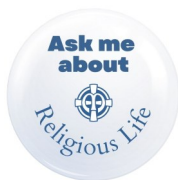
[Six myths about becoming a nun.](#)



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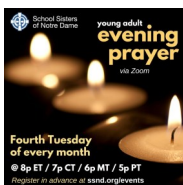
Looking ahead

Click each event title to learn more or visit ssnd.org/events.



[National Vocation Awareness Week](#)

November 2-8, 2025

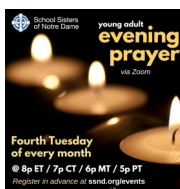


[Young Adult Evening Prayer](#)

For young adults ages 18+

November 25, 2025

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



[Young Adult Evening Prayer](#)

For young adults ages 18+

December 16, 2025

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



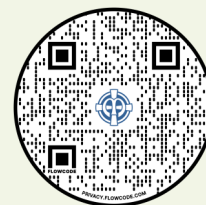
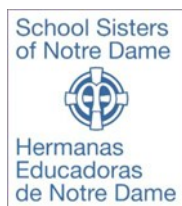
[SEEK26 Conference](#) (Stop by the SSND booth!)

January 1-5, 2026

Fort Worth, TX

For previous issues of *Vocation Reflections*, visit ssnd.org/vocationreflections.

For a list of recommended reading on discernment, visit ssnd.org/booklist.



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