



# Vocation

APRIL 2026

# REFLECTIONS

## For Reflection

1.

Do you think of your life as a response to God's love? Why or why not?

2.

Which practices (prayer, Scripture, Sacraments, service) help you most to grow in your relationship with God?

3.

What talents or gifts might God be inviting you to use more fully?

4.

What is one small step you can take this week to grow in listening to God?

## Mutual awareness

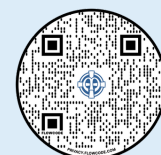
On April 26, 2026 (Good Shepherd Sunday), the Church observes the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The passage below is drawn from [Pope Leo XIV's message](#) for the occasion. He opens by reflecting on the importance of nurturing one's interior life—a theme often emphasized in the writings of Saint Augustine—before turning to the section presented here, titled "Mutual Awareness."

"The Lord of life knows us and enlightens our hearts with his loving gaze." Indeed, every vocation begins with the awareness and experience of a God who is love (cf. 1 Jn 4:16). He knows us profoundly; he has counted the hairs of our head (cf. Mt 10:30) and has envisaged for each person a unique path of holiness and service. Yet this awareness must always be reciprocal. We are invited to know God through prayer, listening to the Word, the Sacraments, the life of the Church and works of charity for our brothers and sisters. Like the young Samuel, who unexpectedly heard the voice of the Lord during the night and learned to recognize it with the help of Eli (cf. 1 Sam 3:1-10), we too must create a space for interior silence in order to hear what the Lord desires for our happiness. This is not a matter of lofty ideas or scholarly learning, but of a personal encounter that transforms one's life. God dwells in our hearts. A vocation entails an intimate dialogue with the One who calls and invites us to respond, despite the deafening noise of the world, with true joy and generosity.

*"Noli foras ire, in te ipsum redi, in interiore homine habitat veritas -- 'Do not go outside yourself. Return within yourself. Truth dwells in the inner person.'* [Once again], Saint Augustine reminds us how important it is to learn to pause and to create space for interior silence, so that we may hear the voice of Jesus Christ.

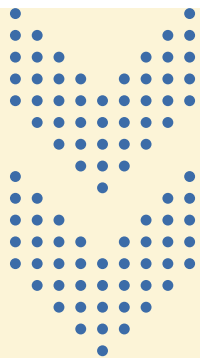
"Dear young people, listen to this voice! Listen to the voice of the Lord who invites you to a full and fruitful life, calling you to put your talents to use (cf. Mt 25:14-30) and to unite your limitations and weaknesses with the glorious cross of Christ. Make time, then, for Eucharistic adoration; meditate faithfully on the word of God, so that you may put it into practice each day; and participate actively and fully in the sacramental and ecclesial life of the Church. In this way, you will come to know the Lord. Through the intimacy of his friendship, you will discover how to give of yourselves, whether through marriage, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, or consecrated life. Every vocation is an immeasurable gift for the Church and for those who receive it with joy. **To know the Lord means above all learning to entrust oneself to him and to his providence, which is abundant in every vocation.**"

- Pope Leo XIV



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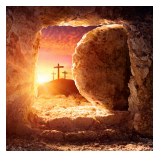


# Looking Ahead

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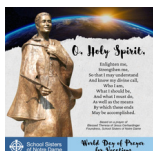


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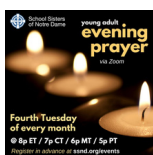
## **HAPPY EASTER!**

April 5, 2026



## **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**

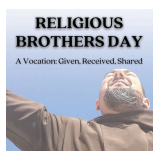
April 26, 2026



## **Young Adult Evening Prayer**

April 28, 2026

8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT *via Zoom*

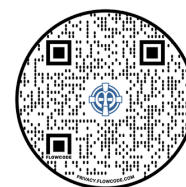


## **Religious Brothers Day**

May 1, 2026

God's cause  
is the *only concern* of  
our hearts Blessed  
Theresa  
of Jesus  
Gerhardinger

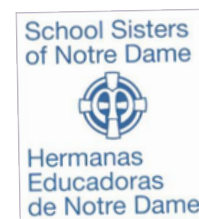
La  
causa de Dios  
es la *única preocupación* de  
nuestros corazones Beata Teresa de Jesús Gerhardinger



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*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, contact [sisters@ssnd.org](mailto:sisters@ssnd.org).*

