

Confirmation Year 1, Session 17 - Who's Calling: Holy Orders and Vocational Discernment

Dear Confirmation 1 Student,

This teaching session is intended to occur with your Parent(s). This is to reinforce the domestic church. Faith starts at home. Go through the various parts together, especially the teaching. The parts in red are meant to be moments of discussion between you and your parent(s) or guardian(s).

*The discussion questions section will take you to a Google Form link where you will share your answers. **The completion of this portion will count as your attendance for the course.***

Opening Prayer -

Loving God, we lift this session of Confirmation in your name. Help us remember that you are the center of it all. Help us to place our trust in you just as we discern the call to holiness. May we answer the call to our great purpose, which is for your greater glory. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Activity - On a piece of paper parents and teen(s), name 5 roles/titles you currently hold and 5 things you want to be known for.

5 Roles/Titles	5 Things You Want to Be Known For
<i>Examples: Freshman class treasurer, Boy Scout, Point Guard, Brother, Sister, Son</i> 1. 2. 3. 4 5.	<i>Examples: My intelligence, my leadership, my loyalty</i> 1. 2. 3. 4 5.

Once you've filled out the 5 things, discuss why these things are important to you.

Teaching -

[The Journey of 2 priests](#) (<-- Click on this link to go to the teaching)

After the teaching: Parent(s) Take some time to discuss the Video.

1. What are some things that stuck out to you from the video?
2. Have you ever looked at priests in the same way that this video highlights?
3. Before they became priests, the two men had certain feelings about life and the church. Have you ever had the same feelings these priests expressed?
4. What are some questions you have about the priesthood?

[Go to Teaching Part 2](#)

[Discussion Questions](#) (<-- Click on this link to go to the Discussion Form)

Closing Prayer - *My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.*

I do not see the road ahead of me.

I cannot know for certain where it will end.

*Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that, if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen*

(A prayer by Thomas Merton)

Vocare Teaching

In the Catholic Church, the word Vocation has a special meaning of “calling”. It comes from the latin word, Vocare which means call, name, or invoke. Some other words that share this root are vocal, voice, vociferous, advocate. There is a voice (another word that shares the root) that one listens to, to help solidify their calling in life. To know one’s vocation one must listen to the voice as it calls us to greater things.

We believe that we are each called by name, by God, to serve Him and His children.

Within our tradition, it’s common to pray for vocations – or that women and men will respond to God’s call by entering religious life, or by being ordained a priest or deacon through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. But that’s not the only way to serve God and His people. In addition to Holy Orders, the sacrament of Matrimony is considered a “Sacrament of service,” in which we reach outside ourselves to minister to others.

The truth is that every one of us, by virtue of receiving the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – is bound to respond to God’s call, to live out our own personal vocation. You haven’t received all those Sacraments yet as you’re studying right now to receive Confirmation. Maybe you’re thinking, “I’m in high school. I don’t know yet what I’m going to do with my life!” Well, as a follower of Christ, you already have responded to God’s call, and you have a vocation, whether you realize it or not.

How can you know where God is calling you? Part of understanding our vocation begins right now. If you develop a prayer life now (reading Scripture, attending daily Mass, saying a rosary daily) you can stay connected to God as you start to make important decisions about which classes to take in school, what your gifts and talents are and how God wants us to be serving him right now as a High school youth (usher at Mass, teaching younger grades in faith formation, service projects, etc). You are also encouraged to talk to the people around you like your parents, your priests, your Confirmation teachers. Ask them questions and talk to them more about how they made their decisions in life. Start thinking and praying now about where you are being called to go, and what you are being called to do. Listen to the voice of God that dwells within you through the Holy Spirit..