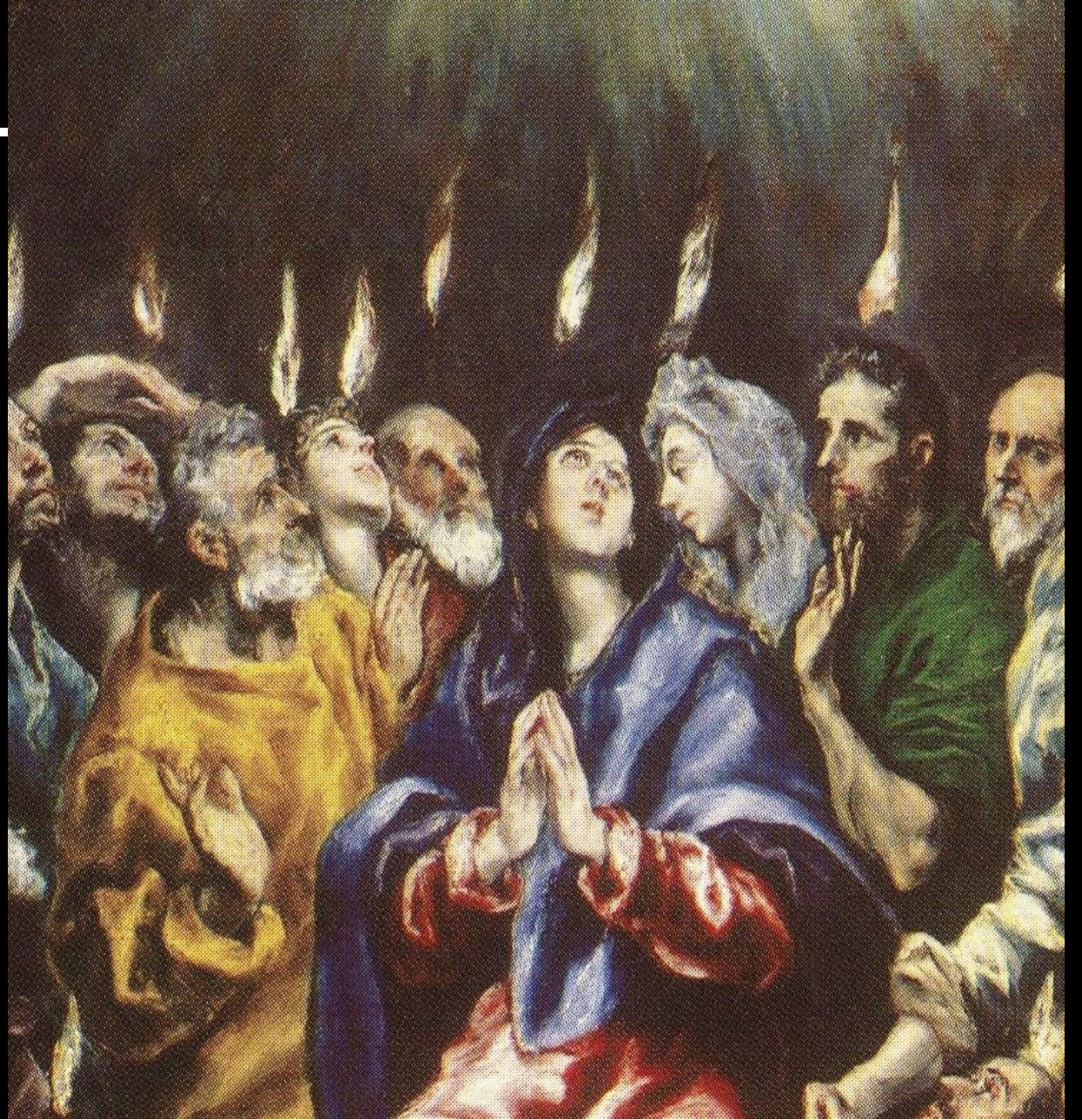

DISCERNMENT FOR ACTION

Or
How to bring the
Holy Spirit into your
decisions



15 MAY 1520





SO FAR...

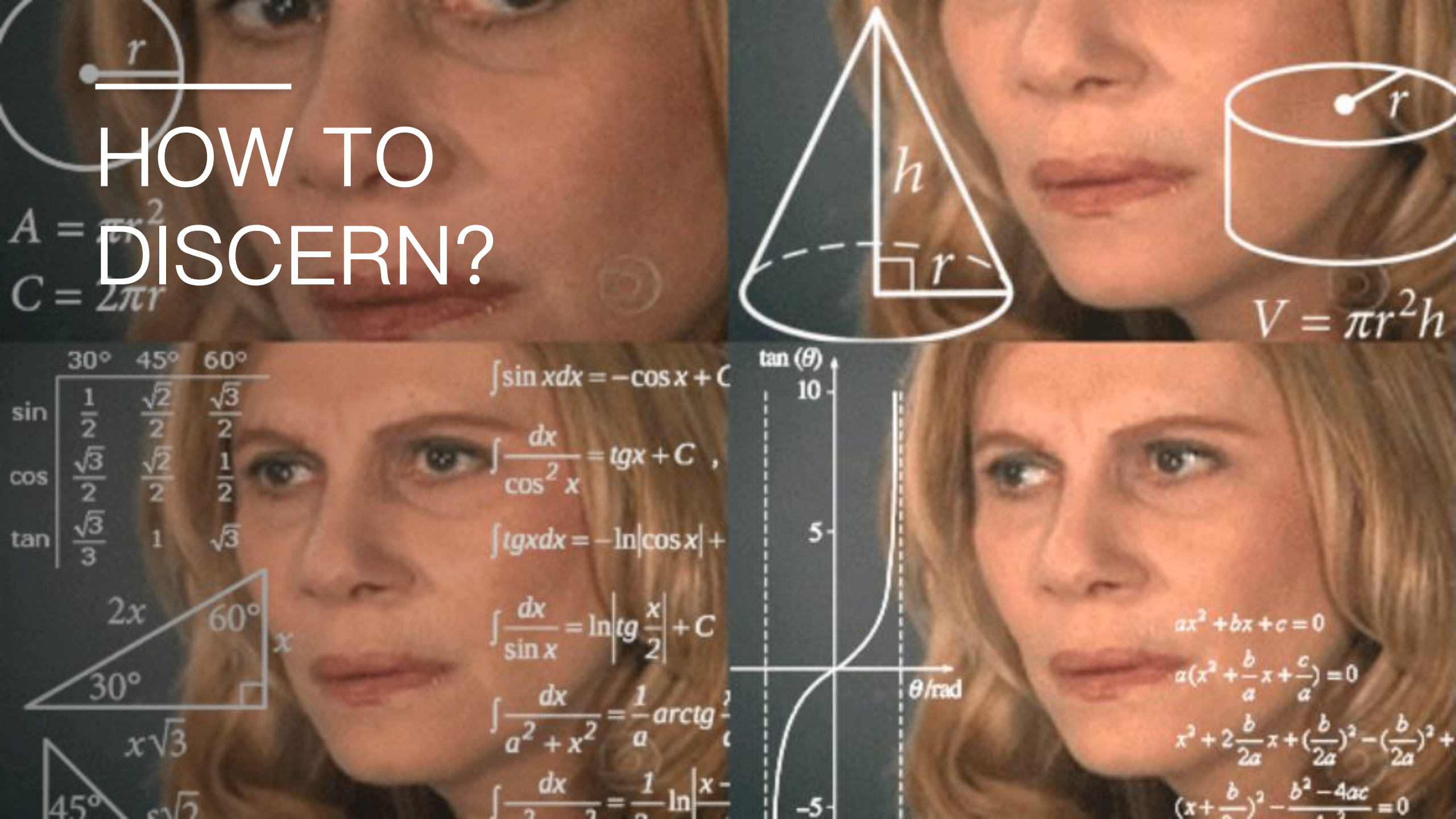
We've heard about the beauty of the Universal Call to Holiness.

We've heard from individual vocations about their place in the Church and have heard how they are all expressions of that Universal Call.

We've heard about the powerful impact that culture change can bring to a community and its impact on vocational spirit.

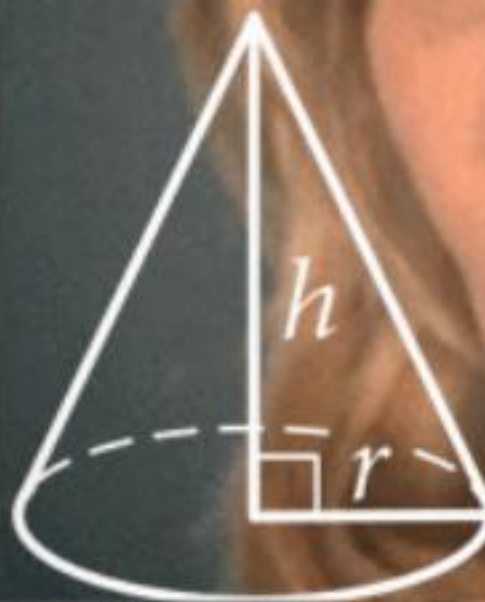
And we've reflected on how to become a champion for each vocation

Now what?



HOW TO DISCERN?

$$A = \pi r^2$$
$$C = 2\pi r$$



$$V = \pi r^2 h$$

	30°	45°	60°
sin	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$
cos	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}$	$\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
tan	$\frac{\sqrt{3}}{3}$	1	$\sqrt{3}$



$$\int \sin x dx = -\cos x + C$$

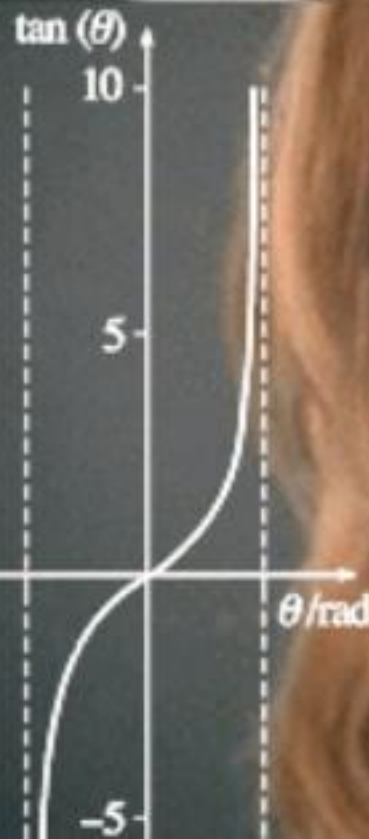
$$\int \frac{dx}{\cos^2 x} = \tan x + C$$

$$\int \tan x dx = -\ln|\cos x| + C$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{\sin x} = \ln\left|\tan \frac{x}{2}\right| + C$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{a^2 + x^2} = \frac{1}{a} \arctan \frac{x}{a} + C$$

$$\int \frac{dx}{x^2 - a^2} = \frac{1}{2a} \ln\left|\frac{x-a}{x+a}\right| + C$$



$$ax^2 + bx + c = 0$$

$$a\left(x^2 + \frac{b}{a}x + \frac{c}{a}\right) = 0$$

$$x^2 + 2\frac{b}{2a}x + \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 + \frac{c}{a} = 0$$

$$\left(x + \frac{b}{2a}\right)^2 - \frac{b^2 - 4ac}{4a^2} = 0$$

BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Less about thinking and more about listening.



ST. IGNATIUS

His broken leg led to a period of prayer and reflection that brought him to author the Spiritual Exercises.

These are designed to help make a decision.



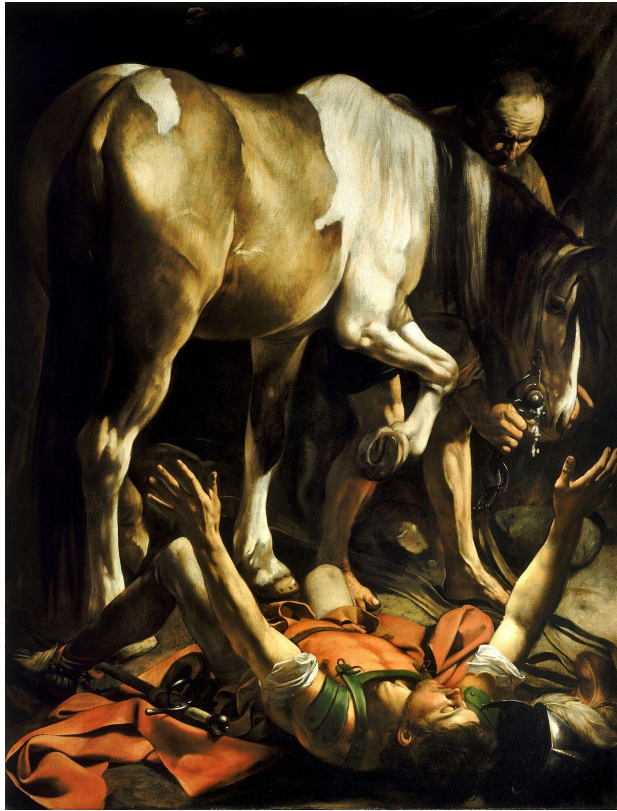
A PRELUDE

- “In every good election, as far as depends on us, the eye of our intention ought to be simple, only looking at what we are created for, namely, the praise of God our Lord and the salvation of our soul [Principle and Foundation]... So, nothing ought to move me to take such means or to deprive myself of them, except only the service and praise of God our Lord and the eternal salvation of my soul.”
-

THREE “TIMES” TO MAKE A DECISION

- 1st When God makes it abundantly clear
- 2nd When he communicates his will through “Consolation or Desolation”
- 3rd When he leaves us to our own powers

WHEN THE LORD MAKES HIS WILL UNMISTAKABLE



THROUGH CONSOLATION AND DESOLATION

Consolation

- Not just an “arm around your shoulder”
- Basically, a feeling of God’s presence and an attraction to Him.
- Doesn’t necessarily feel good.

Desolation

- Not just “feeling down”
- Attraction to things of this world and a distaste for the things of God.
- Doesn’t necessarily feel bad.



PEACE I LEAVE TO YOU...



WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T GET
EITHER?

A third “time”



FIRST, A PLACE OF QUIET

“THE BALANCE METHOD”

Reasons for making a decision

- What benefits or advantages would come for my eternal salvation and the Glory of God?

Reasons against making a decision

- What disadvantages and dangers would come from this decision?

Where does my reason point me?

NOT LIKE CHARLES DARWIN DID...

Marry	This is the question	Not Marry
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Constant companion- Friend in old age- Object to be beloved and play with- Someone to take care of house- Charms of music and female chit-chat- Children to care for one in old age- Better than a dog anyhow <p><i>... it is not worth it to think of ... whole life, like a winter ... working, working & sitting after ... - he will write so - ... living all day long, ... on it but ... house - only ... to yourself a nice wife on a sofa with good fire, + books & music perhaps - ... this ... with the king's ... of St Paul's ... Mary, Mary 2-2-5</i></p>	<p><i>This is the question</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No Quarrelling- Freedom to go where one likes- Choice of society and little of it- conversation of clever men at clubs- Not forced to visit relatives- Not forced to bend to every trifle- More money for books- Time to read books in the evening- No expenses and anxiety of children <p><i>... to have the expense & anxiety of children - ... travelling - ... of time - cannot ... in the evening - ... & society, ... - ... money for books - ... of many children ... to ... (But then it is ... to work too much) Perhaps my wife will like London, then the ... in banishment & degradation with indolent, idle fool -</i></p>

LASTLY,

Get down on your knees and present your decision to the Lord to ask for confirmation



“THE EXAMINATION METHOD”

- Ask yourself the following questions:
 - What am I seeking in making this decision?
 - If I were to counsel someone in this decision making, what would I tell them?
 - If I were at the point of death, how would I like to have made this decision?
 - If I were at the final judgment, how would I like to have made this decision?





LASTLY,

Get down on your knees and present your decision to the Lord to ask for confirmation



HOW CAN I BE SURE?

Right Decision

Wrong Decision



-
- Faith is key
 - Action brings clarity
 - God reveals his plan step by step



"God doesn't
call you to be
successful,
He calls you
to be
faithful."

- Blessed Mother Teresa



PUT OUT INTO THE DEEP (LK 5:4)