

Sponsor Meeting 7 – Vocation

Opening Prayer (Together): Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Activity and Discussion:

- 1) On your smart phone or tablet, go to www.blessedsacramentchurch.org/confirmation and watch the video under the post Sponsor Meeting 7 – Vocation.
- 2) When you have watched the video, read through the reflection on the following page, and use the discussion questions as a guide for a conversation with the confirmand on this topic.
- 3) Ask the confirmand to fill out the summary form, and then both of you should sign it.
- 4) Use the following prayer to conclude your time together. **Closing Prayer: Jeremiah 1:4-7**

Sponsor says: *"Let us remember we are in God's Holy Presence."*

Sponsor and Confirmand take a moment to quiet themselves and place themselves in God's presence.

Confirmand Reads:

The word of the LORD came to me: Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you. "Ah, Lord GOD!" I said, "I do not know how to speak. I am too young!" But the LORD answered me, Do not say, "I am too young." To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak."

They pause for a brief time to listen to the Lord speak to them in the scriptures.

The sponsor continues: O God, you have created us for holiness, and by your son's death on the cross, you have shown us how to love. Help us to know our vocation and to follow it with courage and determination. Give (confirmand's name) a desire to do your will in all things. Give him/her clarity as he/she discerns your call, and help him/her to trust that in pursuing your will, he/she will discover happiness, contentment, and peace. Through his/her vocation, make (confirmand's name) holy, and bring the good work you have begun to completion. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At one point or another, someone has probably asked you, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" As children, many of us probably responded that we wanted to be fire fighters, police officers, nurses, teachers, or some other profession. From the Catholic perspective, however, this question is much deeper than simply asking about what work we hope to do as adults. Every Christian has a vocation, or in other words, every Christian has been called by God

to do some particular thing with their lives. This calling from God is what we refer to as a vocation.

The foundational vocation of every Christian is holiness, or as we have discussed earlier, to be fully united with God, and to love perfectly. Love and our progress toward perfection, however, do not occur in a vacuum. We are meant to love in particular ways. For instance, some people are called to become holy in the context of marriage. Through this vocation, husband and wife sacrifice for one another and in doing so, love one another the way that Jesus showed his love for us on the cross. Some people are called to be religious sisters, making a sacrifice of their lives by offering themselves entirely to Jesus. Other people are called to the priesthood, and they show their love by offering themselves for the sake of their parishioners. In every instance, however, a vocation is a call to love as Jesus loved – sacrificially. We are meant to offer ourselves as a gift for others just as Jesus did for us on the cross, and as he continues to do each time we celebrate the Eucharist.

If every person has both a universal vocation to holiness, and a particular vocation by which they pursue holiness, it means that every person has an obligation to discern their particular vocation. In other words, through prayer, reception of the sacraments, and virtue, every person is meant to discover the particular way that God calls them to love others.

To discern means that we listen for God's quiet voice in the silence of our hearts telling us what he wants us to do. Discernment takes into account our various skills, our own desires, our abilities, and the advice of others. It is a prayerful process by which we sort through all of these things which influence us, and during which the Holy Spirit reveals the path we are meant to follow. Discernment never happens entirely on our own without the help of others. Other people who love us give us advice, help us to see ourselves accurately, and tell us where they see God moving in our lives.

All of this means that we cannot simply assume that we are meant to get married. We need to ask God what he wants from us. If we are meant for marriage, we have to ask who he wants us to marry. Whatever our vocation is, we should never be afraid of it. God wants us to be happy. The vocation to which he calls us will make us happy.

It is never too early to begin discerning one's vocation, but the most important step is to focus on growing in virtue and deepening one's relationship with Christ. It is out of these practices that one will be moved by the Holy Spirit to know the truth of one's vocation.

Sponsor Meeting 7 – Vocation (Confirmand)

Reflection Questions #7 – Due April 14th (please use the resources provided):

- 1) What happens in Confirmation that strengthens the recipient to act as a witness for Christ? (YouCat 205)
- 2) What distracts you from discerning your vocation?
- 3) Have you ever considered a vocation to the priesthood or the consecrated life?
- 4) Why does God give us diverse ways of loving and becoming holy?
- 5) Can a person be really happy if they choose the wrong vocation?
- 6) Has your prayer grown or changed this year? Why or why not? Have you asked Jesus for this?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Student's Name (Print): _____ Sponsor Signature: _____