

EACH NIGHT, ASK
GOD TO REVEAL
HOW HE WAS
PRESENT IN
YOUR DAY



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Put Out Into the Deep (Lk 5:4).
When the time comes, you must
act! Move in the direction your
heart tells you, confident that
God will never send you where
his grace cannot sustain you.
BE NOT AFRAID.



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Ten Practical Ways to Discern



GROWING IN FAITH
WHILE SEEKING GOD'S WILL

Go to Confession.

Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "The soul is the window through which we can see God and hear his voice:" If sin dirties the window, it's hard to hear God's call. To effectively discern your vocation, seek forgiveness through the sacrament of Confession. Then, with a clean heart, ask Jesus to show you His will.

Attend Mass, daily if possible.

"The Eucharist is truly and really Jesus Christ. It is his full presence. There is no greater treasure on the face of this earth. Make Mass the center of your life and you will grow in the conscious encounter with Christ. After receiving Christ in holy Communion, enjoy his presence, share your burdens with him, tell him you give him permission!" - *Msgr. Tom Richter, Is Jesus Christ Calling You to be a Catholic Priest?*

Attend Adoration.

There is an undeniable link between Eucharistic adoration and discernment. Three-quarters of new priests and religious say they regularly attended adoration. In silence before Jesus, ask him to show you his will.

Pray Daily.

Prayer is a conversation with God, not just saying prayers, but speaking to the Lord from your heart. Every day, read the Bible and talk with Jesus as a close friend. Ask him to reveal his plan for you: "Jesus, I want to want what you want. Here I am Lord; I come to do your will."

Find a Place of Formation.

Do not wander into an environment of "deformation" that brings you down spiritually. Instead, choose to hang around people and places that offer Christian formation, where you can grow in holiness and virtue.

Gather Good Information.

Seek out good books, videos, and web sites to help you understand each vocation. Do your very best to learn the art of discernment.

Go on Retreat.

Miracles happen on retreats! One of the surest ways to discover God's plan for you is to enter into silence and prayer over an extended period. Ask your diocesan Vocation Director to help you find a good retreat.

Get Involved.

Every vocation is about service. Get involved with your parish as a lector or catechist. Go on a mission trip. Serve the poor! Find opportunities to serve in our archdiocese at Catholic Charities www.ccaosa.org Only when you give yourself will you find yourself.

Rely on Mary.

Mary is the ultimate example of openness to the will of God. Entrust yourself to her care. Pray three Hail Marys every day, specifically to know your vocation and have the courage to follow it.

Seek Advice.

Don't try to discern your vocation alone, without the help of the Church. Talk to a priest you trust. If you think you are called to priesthood or religious life, at some point you will need to talk with the Vocation Director. Our office can assist you finding a Spiritual Director. If you feel called to marriage, be sure to seek advice from an older person who is solid in his or her faith.