

Vocation Promotion Jottings

Note:

*These jottings are meant for display on the notice board.
They can help you also to prepare some pep vocation talks*

Jotting One: The Dreadful Word

“Vocation”! A big word

Very much used and misused
A word that makes some people frown.
Some others afraid.
Some others smile.
Still others sneer.

Yet for a few, a word that makes them think and generously act upon.

“Vocation” A call of God to one and all.

A challenge to take life seriously.
An invitation to love God and persons.
A summons to follow Jesus.
An offer to find meaning in life.

Vocation a call, yes! but

A call which some are deaf to respond.
A call others hear, but spurn.
A call some others heed, but not for long.
A call, some faithfully follow till the very end of life.

“Vocation” A unique and personal call

For Jesus to be the Saviour of the World.
For Mary to be the mother of Jesus.
For Joseph to be the husband of Mary.
For John the Baptist to be the Forerunner of Jesus.
For Simon Peter to be The Rock.
For Paul to be the Apostle to The Non-Jews.
For Monica to be the Holy Mother of St. Augustine.
For Francis of Assisi to be the troubadour of God.
For Ignatius of Loyola to be the defender of the Church.
For Elisabeth to be the Saintly Queen of Hungary.
For Dominic Savio to be a saintly school boy.

“Vocation A call for you???”

What is it?

Will you follow it?

Jottings Two: My Vocation???

It may not always be:

The easiest and most comfortable
 The one you like best
 The one best in keeping with your feelings
 The one that answers to your worldly dreams

But it May Conceivably Be

The hardest and the most heroic one.
 The one you dislike.
 The one that goes against your grain.
 The one that dashes your golden dreams.

At any rate it has to be:

The one most helpful to show your gratitude to God.
 The one most conducive to love, praise and worship God.
 The one that will lead you more safely to salvation.
 The one that will make it possible for you to serve your neighbour best.
 The one that affords you better chances of spreading the Good News.
 The one that will help you best to build a better world.

Make sure that your task, your vocation in life is:

The one that suits your qualities.
 The one in keeping with God's inspirations and inner promptings.
 The one you have discerned with a clear mind and an uncluttered heart.
 The one that likens you most to Jesus, your Lord and Master.
 The one that Jesus would take, were He in your place.

Do not doubt

The task that fits you into God's plans will always bring you happiness and peace.
 God's inspired task, well performed, will of necessity, bring you satisfaction.
 God's work, carried out dutifully, will afford you a sense of worth, and well-being.
 The fulfilment of your vocation will always give joy, not necessarily earthly pleasures.

Jottings Three: Searching for your Vocation?

Do not:

Expect some visions or revelations from God.
 Waiting for something unusual or extra-ordinary to happen.
 Try to gain an absolute certainty on the correctness of your choice.
 Ask God for signs.
 Wait to be told by your guide, counsellor or spiritual father what vocation to embrace.

Trust in:

God's grace and inspiration.
 Yourself and your inner abilities.
 Your feelings and inclinations.
 The ineffable promptings of your inner voices.

Take into account:

Your natural talents and gifts –intelligence, will power, emotions and health.
 The present circumstances of your life.
 The history of your life, your character and personality traits.
 Your prayer life and religious experiences.
 Your virtues and vices, your strengths and weaknesses.
 Your family situation.
 Your past social life and human relationships.
 Your training, studies, and professional aptitudes.

Be attuned to:

God's inspiration at this moment.
 Your feelings in the here and now.
 The motives that may be prompting you - consciously and unconsciously.
 Your fears, frustrations, past failures, escapisms, unfulfilled longings.

And above all be:

Generous towards God.
Willing to surrender anything whatever to God' will
Detached from all worldly considerations and gains.

Jottings Four: Relative Value of Different Vocations

Which Vocation is Best

Often enough, people keep comparing the value of different vocations:

- Is Religious Life better than Lay life?
- Is celibacy better than marriage?
- Is religious life better than secular life?
- Is it better to be a priest or a brother?
- Which vocation is best?

No vocation is best

All these comparisons miss the point. They are irrelevant.

Vocations do not exist apart from people.

There are people with different vocations.

There are no different vocations in the abstract, apart from people.

Vocations are the various ways people are called to live the same Christian Life.
Vocation is the generous offering of oneself to God in the way he wants us to live our Christian life.

Each vocation is unique, in as much as it is conditioned:

By the unique charismas of each person.

By the unique opportunities offered to him/her by life.

By the unique circumstances each one is placed in.

By the unique promptings and inspirations of the Spirit in his/her heart.

Each vocation is Best for the Individual called to it

As there are not two persons alike, there are not two vocations alike.

For each person, his vocation is unique and surely the best possible for him.

A vocation is good for me, only in so far as it is the best way for me to follow Christ and serve Him faithfully in my here-and-now.

Marriage, Priesthood and Religious Life are the best vocations only for those who are called specifically to live that sort of life!!

In other words, my vocation is my best vocation, not anybody else's.

