

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so thankful for Fr. Fred speaking about vocations in last week's homily. As we have kicked off the Eucharistic Revival in the Diocese and Nation it is timely, because Vocations are essential for us to live as Eucharistic people. I still recall the Knights of Columbus Prayer for Vocations, and I wonder if hearing that at the end of every council meeting touched me in ways I did not realize.

O God, who wishes all men to be saved,
touch with Grace the hearts of many young men and women,
moving them to offer themselves as candidates
for the priesthood and religious life.

Inspire fathers and mothers and all members of Christian families
to become aware of the great need for religious vocations.
Endow all people with reverence for these sacred callings
that they may encourage many to serve God and mankind
in the ranks of religion.

These blessings we ask through Christ our Lord, Amen!

But I would like to take that idea one step further. **What is your vocation?** Vocation isn't merely something for Father Fred and Deacon Todd, or some young person in the pew to consider. It's also not simply being married or being called to the generous single life. At its root, vocation is that which God calls us to in this world, that which each of us fulfills in our own unique way according to our gifts.

In the Catechism, we see that this is how we as Christians are called to be a part of society;

The human person needs to live in society. Society is not for him an extraneous addition but a requirement of his nature. Through the exchange with others, mutual service and dialogue with his brethren, man develops his potential; he thus responds to his vocation. CCC, 1879.

A part of society, not apart from it.

Gaudium et Spes – The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern world is even more explicit in our need to act in the world according to our sacred calling as disciples of Christ.

This council exhorts Christians, as citizens of two cities, to strive to discharge their earthly duties conscientiously and in response to the Gospel spirit. They are mistaken who, knowing that we have here no abiding city but seek one which is to come, (13) think that they may therefore shirk their earthly responsibilities. For they are forgetting that by the faith itself they are more obliged than ever to measure up to these duties, each according to his proper vocation. (14) Nor, on the contrary, are they any less wide of the mark who think that religion consists in acts of worship alone and in the discharge of certain moral

obligations, and who imagine they can plunge themselves into earthly affairs in such a way as to imply that these are altogether divorced from the religious life. This split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age. *GS*, 43.

We do not have a religious life and a separate secular one, we carry our faith into the world. That also means that when we have to make a decision while living in society, or what career we chose, our decisions are not simple pros and cons lists of what is best for me, but proper discernments that ask the question, where is God in this?

Bill Huebsch's Vatican II in Plain English – The Constitutions translates a section of *Lumen Gentium* on the purpose of us living this way in a passage that has touched me ever since I first read it in my Lay Ministry coursework.

As the role of the ordained priest
is to consecrate the bread and wine
to be the Body and Blood of Christ,
so the role of the layperson
is to consecrate the entire world!

Oh, what a great and sacred calling, to consecrate the entire world. I think that we need to consider **our vocation** on a regular basis, not just young people choosing a path in life, but all of us consider what God calls us to now. We are called to grow in life, not to be stagnant in our faith but to blossom. If that is true, then the gifts we have now are different from what we had years ago. So perhaps an update to the prayer at the beginning of this message, that we all might work to discern **our vocation**.

O God, who calls all our restless hearts to rest in him.
Touch with grace our hearts,
that we might discern your will for us
in our unique vocations in this world.
Inspire all those who love and care for us
to help us discern your will.
May all who know us see you in our vocation,
and that our words and actions
in serving you and mankind
will bring your light to the world
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Peace and blessings,
Deacon Todd