

Overview

Our vocation in God is something that needs regular attention to be sustained. Through God it changes and develops over time. We have to be open to new promptings and surprises as God reveals more of his purposes for our lives and for those he calls us to engage with for his sake. Vocation is a shared activity. We are members together of the body of Christ and we need each other for encouragement, support and as partners in God's work. What do we need to do to support each other on our journey and sustain the clarity of our calling?

This is your worksheet; for notes, ideas and questions

Activity

Share your thoughts about the possibilities and plans for new beginnings, and some of the actions you will take.

Question

What have you learned from these sessions about exploring vocation?

What do you think the challenges might be as you move forward from here?

Discussion

'Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work'

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NRSV)

What do you think are the implications for the Church and for our vocations of St Paul's statement?

Question

How can we as a Church be a community that takes our individual and collective vocation seriously?

Final Reflection

The Heart of the Matter

The Lord God said:

I myself will dream a dream within you.

Good dreams come from Me, you know;

My dreams seem impossible, not too practical,

Not for the cautious man or woman;

A little risky too sometimes, a trifle brash perhaps;

Some of my friends prefer to rest more comfortably in sounder sleep
with visionless eye.

But for those who share my dreams I ask a little patience,

A little humour, some small courage,

And a listening heart – I will do the rest.

Then they will risk and wonder at their daring,

Run and marvel at their speed,

Build and stand in awe at the beauty of their building.

You will meet me often as you work -

In your companions who share your risk,

In your friends who believe in you enough

To lend their own dreams, their own hands, their own hearts to your building,

In the people who will find your doorway, stay a while
and walk away knowing that they too can find a dream.

There will be sunfilled days and sometimes it will rain -

A little variety.....

Both come from Me – so, come, be content;

It is my dream you dream,


It is my house you build,

My caring you witness,

My love you share – and this is the heart of the matter.

*Author unknown – cited in 'Live for a Change: Discovering and Using Your Gifts' by Francis Dewar
(1999, Darton, Longman and Todd)*

During the week, you might like to reflect on :



Who might you encourage to join a group
to help to explore vocations in this way?

Ponder

What did you learn from this session?

Final Prayer

In the beginning, before time, before people
Before the world began,
God was

Here and now, among us, beside us,
Enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,
God is

In the future, when we have turned to dust
And all that we know has found its fulfilment,
God will be

Not denying the world, but delighting in it
Not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
Through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Spirit,
God was, God is, God will be.

Listen, Christ has promised to be with us
in the world, as in our worship.

Amen. We go to serve him

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SUSTAINING VOCATION

Topic VOC7