

Session 11: Vocation

Agenda

- 1. Looking back, looking forward
 - a. Reflections on Fr. Pete's week one video, then and now
- 2. What's a calling? Why bother Praying?
 - a. Old vs. New Testament sensibilities
- 3. MPL testimonial
- 4. What do you think your vocation is?

Some Notes: Co-Curriculars and Final Paper

Co-curriculars

- You are required to complete at least <u>three</u> co-curricular events and <u>two</u> co-curricular labs
 - Can do a third lab as a bonus
- For each, must submit a written reflection from Commonplace Book
- I don't really care if you have done them by the required dates (you may upload beyond the due dates)
- These need to be submitted no later than <u>Thanksgiving Day</u> (Nov. 27)
- Final paper: due November 14, 11:30 pm (end of this week!)
 - o "Autocardiogram"
 - Answer one or more session questions relative to the dual dynamic of how you are loved and how you are called to love (<u>link</u> for more information)
 - Roughly, sessions 1-6: how you are loved; sections 7-11: how you are called to love
 - 900-1100 words (typed!)
 - Must do two submissions (one on Canvas, one via Google form)



End-of-Semester Dinner

- At my home, tomorrow night
- Transportation plan:
 - o I will drive some, Sophie might drive some, we probably need to get at least one Uber
 - Congregate at the main circle (between Alumni and the Law School) between 5:30-5:45 on Wednesday,
 November 12
 - We will get you to my house one way or another
 - And get you back home by 8



Fr. Pete McCormick

Looking Back and Looking Forward

- In your CommonPlace Books, write down a short reflection on this video
- Look back at what you wrote for week one (we did this in class)
- Compare to what you wrote now
- What, if anything, is different in how you reacted to this video now compared to then?



Small-Group Activity Reflections on Fr. Jenkins' Video

Group 1

- JD
- Alina
- Myles

Group 2

- William
- Reese
- Christian

Group 3

- Lila
- Daniel
- Maura

Group 4

- Ethan
- James
- Vincent

Group 5

- Christian S
- Elliott
- Joe

Group 6 (4 people)

- Zane
- John
- Raphael
- Maeve

Would you like me to reshuffle and

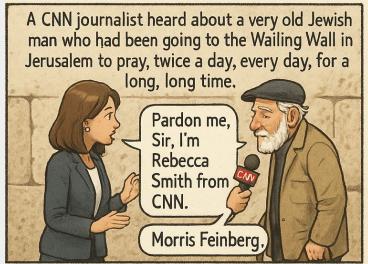


What is a calling?

• Jenkins: "If I wanted to know God's call, I should spend time regularly with God in

prayer."

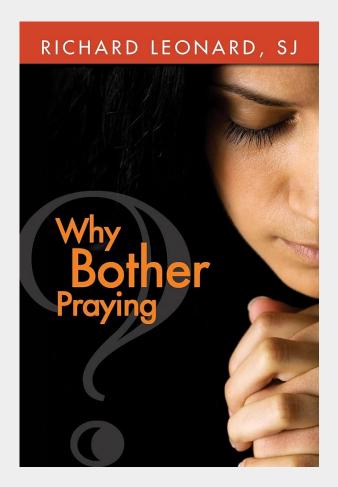


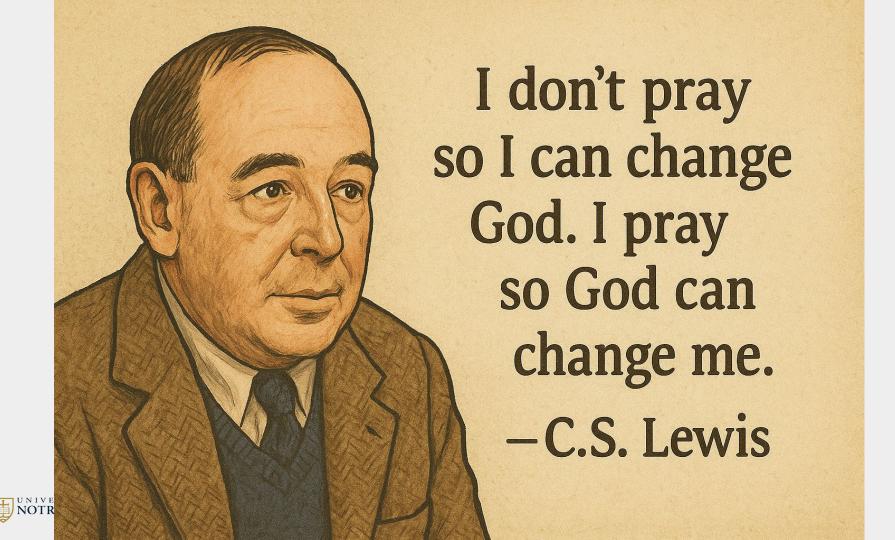












Old Testament Sensibility

• In the Old Testament, God intervenes in human affairs with bolts of lightning from the sky

and other miraculous things



New Testament Sensibility

- The New Testament is, at a fundamental level, about the <u>incarnation</u>
- God comes to us, not through bolts of lightning from the sky or earthquakes from the ground, but rather in the form of a <u>person</u>
- In the Christian tradition, that person is not just someone who died 2000 years ago, it's someone whom we encounter every day:
 - Matthew 25: "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me."

Where am I going with this?

- You should not expect literal clarity on your calling/vocation
- But, as emphasized by **Vincent Harding**, that calling (or those callings) will be staring us in the face at different points in time. And those callings will come from other people
- As **Fr. Jenkins** says, we need to be quiet enough, and make room for prayer or meditation, to truly be able to see what is around us and how we are being called
- But we also maintain personal agency / free will, as noted by **Thomas Merton**
 - "Every man has a vocation to be someone: but he must understand clearly that in order to fulfill this vocation he can only be one person: himself." (CPB, pg. 208)

MPL Testimonial: Sophie on vocation

Take Five

- Somewhere in your Commonplace Book, write down what you think your vocation is
 - This might well change over time
 - That's okay!
 - Could be fun to go back and read this in three-plus years