

VOCATION CONNECTION

>newsletter

DAUGHTERS of CHARITY
OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL



daughters-of-charity.com

How Online Discernment Impacted Our Journeys

by Rebecca Harpring and Josephine Lomasney

Discernment is a deeply personal journey that God invites us to take. It involves listening and responding to His call to become our true self. While it is a personal journey, it is not one that is traveled alone. God gives us companions for the journey who offer support, encouragement, and new insights toward discovering our call.

About two years ago, we joined the Daughters of Charity online discernment group for women who are discerning a religious vocation. Each month, one sister and one discerner plan and lead a discussion over Google Hangout on a topic pertaining to religious life.

Rebecca: "When I first joined the group, I was still in college and fairly new to discernment. At times, I felt alone because I did not know many other women who were seriously discerning a religious vocation. I received plenty of encouragement from my friends and family members, but it was still something new and unfamiliar to them, too. Many of my friends didn't understand why I would want to join a religious order at all. The online group gave me a place where I could openly discuss my curiosities, fears, and excitement about religious life with other women who shared the same sentiments. It is a space where I am understood and respected regardless of whether or not I end up becoming a sister. I never imagined that I would form such a deep connection with these women over a monthly Google Hangout, but I am thankful that they have been and continue to be a part of my discernment journey.

Josephine: "This online group helped me in two ways: to get to know other young women who are discerning religious life and to really get to know the Daughters in a relaxed way. Having this discussion forum and hearing others open up about their discernment has made me more comfortable with the journey God has been leading me on, to know that I'm not alone, and that I have sisters in Christ praying and journeying too. It has given me the opportunity to ask questions about and see the Daughters way of life, their prayer life, and their ministries. The sisters openness in sharing, attentiveness to each discerner as she responds to the reflections, and the community this online group has formed has been extremely beneficial to my discernment!

Over the past two years, the group has evolved. Several women continue to participate in the group and have welcomed newcomers while others have left either because they have already entered religious life or felt that God was calling them in a different direction. No matter where God ultimately calls each person, the group fosters a sense of friendship and support for the journey. Many of us have met in person at various retreats or other discernment events and consider each other to be dear friends, regardless of where God leads us. We are all disciples of Christ, walking on a road, helping each other navigate the countless twists and turns of discernment.

If you are interested in learning more about the group, contact Sister Theresa Sullivan at sistertheresa.sullivan@doc.org.



Rebecca (left) and Josephine (right) bond over their discernment journeys during a recent retreat.

upcoming events

Register: <http://daughters-of-charity.com/retreats>

Days of Discernment

April 21-23 // Evansville, IN

Search & Serve

June 17-23 // New Orleans, LA

Summer Online Retreat

July 9-13

more vocation and discernment stories:

<http://spiritofthedaughtersofcharity.blogspot.com>

Casting My Lot

by Sister Meg Kymes, D.C.

On January 7th, I made my vows for the first time. Some of my family was able to come to celebrate this next step with me. My mom's cousin, Mary Margaret, came to Emmitsburg from Kansas City for my celebration. After Mass, Mary Margaret came up to me and gave me a huge hug. With tears in her eyes, she said, "I'm so proud of you! I've never seen so many joyful women in one place. I can see why you cast your lot with them."



Sister Meg Kymes, D.C., celebrates with family after saying her vows for the first time!

In the weeks following my vows, Mary Margaret's words resonated with me. I thought of the Apostles leaving their nets to follow Jesus. The Gospel of Matthew tells us that, "Going on from there, [Jesus] saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father, preparing their nets. Jesus called them and immediately they left the boat and their father to follow him."



We were all excited for Sister Meg! Sister Nancy Dunn, D.C., embraces Sister Meg at the end of Mass.

Like the Apostles, I chose to follow Jesus' call to me to leave my family of origin to "cast my lot" with the Daughters of Charity. I wanted to share the joy of Christ's presence in my life in a special way. In our vows, the Daughters of Charity pray, "In response to the call of Christ who invites me to follow him and to be a witness to his charity of the poor, I ... vow to God, for one year, chastity, poverty, and obedience ... and to devote myself to the corporal and spiritual service of the poor."

Like all of the Apostles, I chose to cast my lot through God's call to me to be a witness with others to God's love. I chose to cast my lot with the example of the Sisters I live with, the Vincentian Saints and Blessed, and the other smaller saints that have influenced my journey.

Now on YouTube...

Stay up-to-date with our newest video releases at: youtube.com/daughtersofcharityus

Holy Hangout: 400th Anniversary of the Vincentian Charism—We've talked so much about this anniversary, but what is it? Let us explain it to you!

Oceans: A Discernment Journey—Experience the all of the highs and lows of the discernment journey in just a few minutes.

Holy Hangout: Family Edition 2—Hear firsthand experiences from family members of some of our sisters of what their journey was like as a loved one joined the Daughters of Charity.

Pre-Postulant Weekend—Clips from some of our Pre-Postulants with their best advice to discerners and an inside look at their gathering.

Dear friends,

May the Peace of our suffering and rising Christ be with us all!

We find ourselves in many new places—new ways of saying "yes." We can join online discernment groups, make online retreats, Skye with spiritual directors and so many more things.

It's 2017 and the world is changing so quickly everyday.

And yet, God still calls us in the quiet stillness of prayer and in the loud bustle of service. Those things haven't changed at all.

One thing that is changing is how you all pray. So many are using online prayer resources to help to pray with the daily Word.

Because of the wonderful access we all have to pray with many things and in many ways, we have decided to discontinue including the prayer resource "Living Faith" with the Discerner Newsletter. It helps with conservation efforts and acknowledges your freedom to seek guidance from a plentiful world of online possibilities.

Please continue to give us feedback so that we can respond to the best ways to journey with you.

God bless you on the remainder of your Lenten journey. Know you are held in our prayers.

Sister Lisa, Sister Mary Fran, Sister Theresa, Sister Pat, Sister Virginia Ann, and Sister Kathleen

from the directors



Scan for retreats and events info.

share with us.



daughters-of-charity.com