

Run for Vocations Prayer Service

DARE TO DREAM

Leader:

When you are thinking of career choices, what comes firstly to your minds? Money, job security, fun times? Our Baptismal call challenges us to look at our lives as a call from God to use our gifts and talents to better the human community and to play a real part in establishing God's reign on earth. Jesus' invitation "Come, follow me!" is a call to transform the world and make it a better place. Let us reflect prayerfully on this call to "Come, follow me".

Reader 1:

Each of us will someday choose a career or job that we hope will bring us happiness. But, how do we choose what we will do and how do we know whether it will make us happy. Think for a moment of someone you know, someone you respect, someone you really admire. Who is that person and why do you respect and admire them? They probably serve other people in some way, and use the talents God gave them to help others. Would you ever consider using your talents to help others?

Hymn: Servant Song

What do you want of me, Lord?
Where do you want me to serve you?
Where can I sing your praises?
I am Your Song.

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, You are the Lord.
Jesus, Jesus, You are the Way.

I hear you call my name, Lord,
and I am moved within me.
Your Spirit stirs my deepest self,
Sing your song in me.

Refrain

Jesus, Jesus, You are the Lord.
Jesus, Jesus, You are the way.



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Words and Music by Sr.Donna Marie McGargill

All:

Loving God, you have created us with different talents and you have placed people in our world who need the specific gift that each of us can offer. Help us today to think about our future as a way to answer your call to develop and use our gifts for the good of the community. Grant us the courage and wisdom to respond generously to your call.

Reader 2:

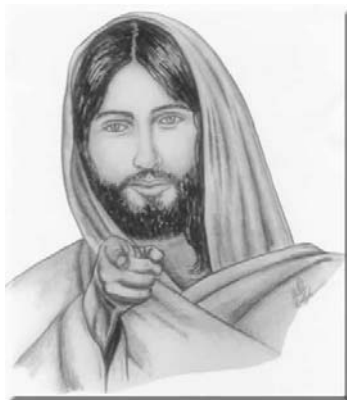
(Prepared by Rev. Ken McCaffrey)

We have many guides to help us think about the future. Some tell us that we should make a lot of money, others tell us that career advancement and power are all that matter. But there are other more penetrating voices who see that our futures are intimately bound to God's presence in the world. These people encourage us to realize that our ability to solve problems, imagine new futures, design or repair machines, care for and educate children, cure diseases, are ways that God calls us to continue to bring Christ's love to the world. As we think of our futures, let us listen to God's word and allow its message to penetrate our hearts.

Reader 3:

(1 Samuel 3:1-9, New American Bible, <http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/1samuel/1samuel3.htm>)

During the time young Samuel was minister to the LORD under Eli, a revelation of the LORD was uncommon and vision infrequent. One day Eli was asleep in his usual place. His eyes had lately grown so weak that he could not see. The lamp of God was not yet extinguished, and Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." He ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But he answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep." At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."



Leader:

This reading is a reminder that as followers of Jesus, baptized in his name, God calls us to use our gifts for the service of our brothers and sisters. When we have a special talent, do we think of it as God calling us to a particular vocation in life? For Mother Teresa, it was the sight of an abandoned child that helped her discover her vocation. For the great monk and writer, Thomas Merton, it was his best friend and his teachers in college who helped him discover his vocation in life. Whatever our talents, God invites us to use them for more than making money, gaining security, or finding success. For we are called by God to heal our broken world. Think for a moment of the late Mother Teresa who encourages us to give of ourselves until it hurts. Perhaps you might think of Sister Ita, a nun who was murdered in El Salvador, who helped her niece think about the future when she wrote: "What I am saying is I hope you find what gives life a deep meaning for you. Something worth living or maybe even dying for, something that energizes you, enthralls you and enables you to keep moving forward in faith."

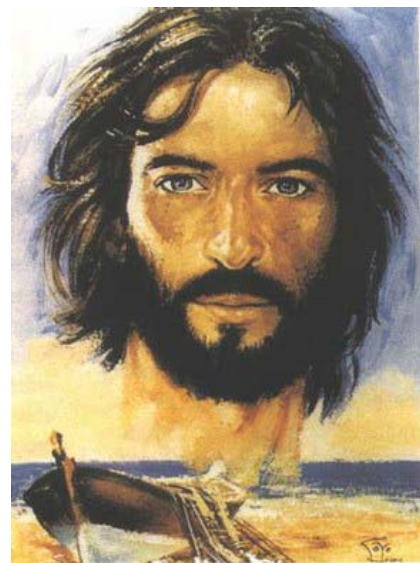
Hymn: Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars and night
I will make the darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord
If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone
Fill their hearts with love alone
I will speak my word to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am Lord
Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord
If you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.



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Leader:

Let us pray together...

All:

Help me, Lord, to hear you,
To listen with an open heart,
For the silent whispering sounds you send.
Help me Lord to know that you are calling me,
And to answer that request
Help me Lord, to reach you,
Know you more clearly,
And believe in your more deeply
Help me Lord, to find that path
You laid out for me
And to take it.
Bless me with the courage to act,
To respond to the unseen and unexpected,
To that Spirit of God working in me.
Help me Lord, to see you,
Recognize your light
In the lives of people.
Kindle in my heart the will to serve you, by serving them,
To give generously, not just what I have,
But what I am.
Amen.

