



# Good Shepherd Sunday

## Q & A with Some Discerning Hearts

### **A Young Woman Discerning at**

Most Precious Blood Catholic Church

### **Q: How did the Lord get your attention... making you more aware of His Presence?**

**A:** I've been thinking about my vocation for a long time. Even as a little girl, I would wonder what I would be called to. Growing up in a devout Catholic family, all of the vocations were familiar to me, and I shied away from none of them. However, the first time I seriously considered religious life was at a praise and worship night, praying more deeply than I ever had before about how much the Lord loved me. I promised to give my life to Him to use as He wished, although I would never be able to repay what He has done for me. There were no specific parameters as to what that promise entailed, only that I would do whatever He willed me to do. I remember thinking "Wherever you call me Lord, I'll go. If you wish me to give my life to you as a Sister, then I will do so with joy." So I suppose that the Lord got my attention just by making me aware of His love. He also began calling my attention through the love of others – teachers, campus ministers, friends, and family members. I sought out a religious sister, and the more I got to know her, the more I desired that loving wisdom and strength of character that she had from her relationship with the Lord. So, I started to attend a discernment group to find out more.

### **Q: How have you changed in your process of discernment?**

**A:** I have learned that discernment of vocation is not a destination and that one must forgo giving deadlines to oneself regarding your vocation. God loves us beyond our understanding and is always working within us, and while it seems like the process is taking an eternity to discern, know that we must learn to trust Him one day at a time, and eventually, we will one day be at the foot of His Cross.

Pray and ask for humility because God will call you to serve Him in more than one way. While I feel God calling me to enter into the Office of the Priesthood, I have accepted that He is first asking me to finish my time at college and focus on growing in my faith and learning to walk solely with Him first before one day becoming part of His family of priests.

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### **Q: Once you thought the Lord might be calling, how did you begin the process of discernment?**

**A:** When I started to feel God's pull at my heart for potential religious life, I began to research different orders. I found it very helpful to go to different websites or even find books about different religious orders. It really helped me to see which charisms or rules of life resonated with my soul. At the end of high school I still had these feelings, but I felt the Lord calling me to open my heart to married life. So I decided to give a year of service, which also gave me time to discern. It was during this year that I learned a lot about the complementarity of men and women in St. Pope John Paul II's "Theology of the Body." I also developed many healthy friendships with guys, and was introduced to more Lay Consecrated movements.

Overall, researching various orders, rules of life, movements, spiritualities, and missions was very helpful in discernment. The biggest step is opening your heart, then the Lord can move and lead, always bringing with Him the peace of the Spirit.

### **Q: What Scripture has spoken to your heart in your process of discernment?**

**A:** When you need a reminder of why...**Isaiah 43:4a** (but you can pray with all of 43!)  
When you doubt the process...**Proverbs 3:5-6**  
When you doubt if God is listening or if He is near...**Psalms 139**  
When you start to compare...**John 21:15-25**  
When you are afraid and question what God is doing...**John 14:1-14**

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Holy Family Catholic Church

