



# Orientation For GIVEN Mentees: Personal Vocation & Fulfillment Stories

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## What is Personal Vocation?

God the Father beholds each of you as beloved daughter. He speaks you into existence. He looks upon you and calls you by name – ALWAYS.

This vertical relationship with the Father is the heart of PERSONAL VOCATION:  
*God's constant call to each unique person to holiness & relationship with Him.*

You are FIRST a Beloved Daughter; then, a sister, friend, spouse, etc.

And this personal call of love exists even before baptism....



# Personal Vocation Becomes a Supernatural Call at Baptism

“With baptism we become children of God in his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Rising from the waters of the baptismal font, every Christian hears again the voice that was once heard on the banks of the Jordan River: ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased’ (Luke 3:22).” St. John Paul II, *Christifidelis Laici*, #11


At baptism we begin a process of divinization and our identity becomes that of a beloved son or daughter, in Christ, who participates in the very life of the Blessed Trinity.



## St. Theresa of Avila

### *Christ Has No Body*

Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do  
good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses  
all the world.  
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,  
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.



**Although there are various forms of “vocation”  
Personal Vocation is the most real.**

**It integrates the universal vocation to holiness and  
the call to a state of life or a profession in the  
concrete and singular and loving CALL BY NAME  
that God gives to each one.**



## Dangers of Reducing Vocation to a “State of Life”

**For youth:** my vocation is not now, but down the road. It is something I am discerning, but not yet living. Responsibility and dignity downgraded. Anxiety upgraded.

**For adult singles:** Painful feelings of having “missed the boat” and remaining as a kind of vocation orphan.

**For those who are divorced or widowed:** lost vocation. I had a vocation but don’t know what my vocation is now or could be.

**For those in a vowed state of life:** the vocation is the state of life with its roles and responsibilities. Potential disconnect from my unique gifts and self.



# Characteristics of Personal Vocation

It is yours and nobody else's.

It is now. Right now. The Sacrament of this Present Moment.

It is the organizing principle of one's whole life.

It is a call to co-create with the Holy Spirit a beautiful chapter in salvation history.

# St. John Henry Cardinal Newman



God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain.

# What are Fulfillment Stories?

**A Fulfillment Story is simply a description of something you did that:**

- 1. You believe you did well;
- 2. You enjoyed doing; and/or,
- 3. Provided you with a sense of deep personal satisfaction or achievement.

It is not necessary that the stories be dramatic or impressive to others. They might have resulted in some award or recognition, but this is not necessary. In fact, one may include stories that nobody but oneself knows anything about.



## Some Examples of Fulfillment Stories:

- ❑ Finished my first piano recital and got rave reviews.
- ❑ Saved for and bought a Honda CRV on my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- ❑ Worked with friends to plan and lead our high school's Kairos retreat.
- ❑ Wrote and directed a comedic play for a young adult group
- ❑ Led college basketball team to regional championship.
- ❑ Developed a new and efficient method for processing transaction
- ❑ I established an evening routine of quiet reading with our children

## Criteria for Selecting Three Fulfillment Stories:

- ❑ Not passive experiences, but stories of you in action.
- ❑ Not general or vague, but specific activities with details
- ❑ Be aware of the criterion of social desirability or potentially false ideas of “what I as a Catholic *ought* to find fulfilling.”
- ❑ Let your light shine. Recognize that your life is in Christ and to name and cultivate your unique talents is to be an *image bearer* for Jesus, to reflect his gifts, to give Him Glory.
- ❑ Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you and, using the template provided, write down the top three stories that are most golden in your memory.