

Consider the Call:
A Vocations Resource Manual for Army Chaplains,
Chaplain Assistants, and Directors of Religious Education
(From a Christian Faith Perspective)

Compiled and Written by
The Chief of Chaplains Vocations Task Force

Edited by
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Washington, DC

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REPLY TO
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1 July 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNIT MINISTRY TEAM

SUBJECT: Letter of Endorsement for Consider the Call: A Vocations Resource Manual for Army Chaplains, Chaplain Assistants and Directors of Religious Education (From a Christian Faith Perspective)

1. References:

- a. Chief of Chaplains Newsletter, February 2001
- b. U.S. Army Chaplaincy Strategic Plan, FY 2000-2005

2. In the February issue of our branch newsletter, I wrote to you about our plan to resource the chaplaincy in order to develop a comprehensive program for Vocation Sabbath 2001, scheduled for 16-18 November. At my behest, the Directorate of Ministry Initiatives convened the Chief of Chaplains Vocations Task Force in San Antonio, TX this spring. This task force worked diligently to craft superb preaching and worship materials, religious education curricula and discernment retreat models to support the field. I enthusiastically present the fruits of their labor, a resource manual designed to empower all Unit Ministry Teams. Now, any chaplain, chaplain assistant or director of religious education in the Army has the resources to execute a program to help people answer the life-shaping question, "How is God calling me to serve Him?"

3. This spring, the Board of Directors also approved the plan for executing a comprehensive program for Vocation Sabbath 2001. With this resource manual, each installation will shape a program tailored to meet its own needs, training schedule and mission. MACOM Chaplains will provide the Directorate of Ministry Initiatives an After Action Review by 12 February 2002.

4. Contact Chaplain (CPT-P) Timothy Mallard for questions about both the resource manual and Vocation Sabbath 2001 at (703) 601-4452, DSN 329-4452, or e-mail: mallats@occh-nt.army.mil.

GAYLORD T. GUNHUS
Chaplain (Major General)
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Chief of Chaplains

This Resource Manual is dedicated to all those faithful chaplains, chaplain assistants and directors of religious education throughout the Army who daily help people to
“consider the call.”
PRO DEO ET PATRIA! FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!

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Preface

In the fall of 1999, the Chief of Chaplains Board of Directors crafted the seminal document that will guide the Army Chaplain Corps for the next five years, The U.S. Army Chaplaincy Strategic Plan, FY 2000-2005. The first major goal listed in this plan is Goal 1.1, "Strengthen the spiritual life of the Army Chaplaincy by Fiscal-Year 2003."

Though succinctly worded, this goal is by no means easy to enact. Nonetheless, the Chief of Chaplains has designated the Directorate of Ministry Initiatives as the lead agent for implementing this goal across the Army Chaplain Corps. One focus of Goal 1.1 is to ensure that the chaplaincy remains true to its spiritual focus by developing a culture of vocations within the Army. What this means is that every chaplain, chaplain assistant and director of religious education in the Army should be trained and ready to respond when people ask the question, "How is God calling me to serve Him in my life?" Obviously, this kind of effort has a two-way effect. Not only will we help others find how God may be leading them but also we as professional clergy may reawaken a sense of our calling as servants of God. We believe that developing a culture of vocations within the Army will have a leavening affect outside our branch and inside it as well.

We recognized early on, however, that we needed two things to reach this objective. First, it was necessary for us to develop a common language with which to understand the theological issue of "vocation" or "calling." Obviously, with so many different theological perspectives on what it means to encounter and respond to the call of God, this was going to be our most difficult task. However, the first chapter of this resource manual attempts to do just that. Basically, we have developed a common language and a common theological framework upon which we can open a dialogue about a theology of God's call. It's not the final word; it's just the beginning of the discussion (we hope). And because we are aware of the significantly different perspectives among various faith groups, this first resource manual addresses purely Christian approaches to the issue.

Second, we knew that we needed to provide a common resource to the almost 5,000 chaplains, chaplain assistants and directors of religious education in the Active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard. This resource would have to reflect the diversity of perspectives about God's call, even the many perspectives among the various Christian traditions. In the wider field of vocational theology we have found no such resource, so we decided to create one. Toward that end, in the spring of 2001 we convened the Chief of Chaplains Vocations Task Force in San Antonio, Texas. Twenty chaplains, chaplain assistants and directors of religious education from around the world gathered together to begin creating this Resource Manual. We organized into three committees: Preaching and Worship, Religious Education and Discernment Retreats. The three self-named chapters in this work reflect their collective efforts as small groups and of the task force as a whole. For their selfless service on behalf of the chaplaincy, we in the Office of the Chief of Chaplains are extremely grateful.

The Task Force and the Editor have worked hard to refine and revise this manual to be as accurate as possible. However, for any errors that occur within this manual, unintentional though they are, the Directorate of Ministry Initiatives takes full responsibility. Our hope is that this manual will be a "living document." Later, we hope

to publish supplements or additional resources that will address the “vocational task” from Jewish, Islamic and Buddhist perspectives as well. We welcome comments, criticisms, and suggestions for other resources that we can include in future issues.

Our prayer is that this Resource Manual will be an active tool in the professional libraries of our UMTs, and that you will use it to craft a comprehensive vocations program to help our people “consider the call.”

May God richly bless you in that endeavor.

JACK N. ANDERSON
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army
Director, Ministry Initiatives

Consider the Call
***An Introduction to Vocational Theology and an
Invitation to Dialogue***

**“Consider the Call: Toward an Ecumenical Theology of Vocation”
Chaplain (CPT-P) Timothy S. Mallard**

**(Originally presented to the Chief of Chaplains Vocations Task Force as a
theological framework in to which to consider its charter).**

I remember the nervous expression on his face just as if I were still looking at him today. His name was Anthony, and he was the first person to ever come forward and make a profession of faith in Christ under my preaching. A young man dating the daughter of one of our deacons, hopefully he responded out of the purest of motives, but one's motives are usually the last thing on one's mind while standing in front of the congregation to proclaim one's devotion to God. Indeed, so many things enter into the process of hearing and following the call of God that perhaps we can never be sure of another person's motives, let alone our own. Still, the timeless rhythm of faith continues: as clergy, we offer service at table and in word, God uses our efforts, meager though they are, calling people to Him through us, and they come. Why? Is there a consensus on how God leads one to a vocation? Particularly in the multi-faith context of the Army Chaplaincy, is there common theological ground on which we can stand to fathom, and hopefully refine, our participation in the process of God's call? The purpose of this essay is to examine the process of call and to posit an ecumenical

theological perspective on participating in that process. My goal is to prepare chaplains to help people answer the crucial question, “How is God calling me?”

To begin, however, we must note the obvious fact that with so many varied theological positions among Army Chaplains, there are differences about a theology of call for which we must account. What are some of these differences? First, we operate from differing perspectives of language. Note that in the introduction to this essay I interchangeably used both the terms vocation and call. I did so out of respect for the differences in language about the process of call that are found in the field of vocational theology. For instance, to a Roman Catholic, the term vocation can act to describe a person who is a potential religious novice or seminarian (i.e. “She is a vocation.”), to describe a role of work that one can take in the church (i.e. a vocation of laity or priestly service), or to describe a state of being (i.e. a vocation of celibacy or marriage).¹ Moreover, in Catholic life the term vocation is probably most often used in the plural to denote an effort to develop or cultivate persons who respond to God’s call to serve the Church. Contrast this perspective with that of a Free-church Protestant (i.e. a Baptist, Pentecostal, etc.) who while being unfamiliar with the term vocation, understands full well the concept of “a call to preach.” In fact, most Protestants recognize that God calls persons to serve the Church, if not specifically in the role of preacher then also in conjunction with the liturgical service of the table to the gathered community. Generally, we can say that Christians understand that either vocation or call refers to the process of an individual hearing and responding to God’s voice within. Moreover, this process of

¹ Particularly since Vatican II, the Roman Catholic Church has engaged in a serious effort to increase vocations. This has been amplified by the priestly crisis but I see the church’s momentum here as being driven by its theology and not a sense of peril. See [A Future Full of Hope: The U.S. Bishops’ National](#)

call is not perfunctory, but is invested with an imperative to act by someone who has encountered none other than the God who created them. For the purposes of this essay, I shall hereafter refer to the process as simply the call of God.

A second theological nuance of the process of the call of God, however, is also how the call occurs and why it occurs. Notice that in the definition above I categorized the call of God as occurring within someone. This connotes a distinctly Christian perspective on what it means to be called, for several non-Christian traditions, most notably Judaism and Islam, believe that a call of God does not happen from within the individual but from out of the community of faith.² The established clergy of a community identify and encourage potential successors in the faith, and in most cases take a more active role in mentoring protégés. As well, the individual is not called out from the community to go and serve elsewhere but usually to remain in close proximity to the community and to continue to serve it once he or she has achieved clerical status. Thus the form and purpose of the call of God are different for non-Christian traditions. Is there common ground with these understandings of call? Yes, as we shall see later in this essay. For the moment, however, let me continue to explicate a distinctly Christian understanding of the call of God, since my tradition is the one with which I am most conversant. However, let me also recognize that while honest differences remain between my perspective and other traditions, a spirit of collegial ecumenism can link us in better understanding our differing practices in ministry.³

Vocation Strategy, 1996-1998, the National Council of Catholic Bishops: Washington, DC, 1996, for the church's overarching theological framework.

² For a helpful perspective from Judaism on the call of God, see Basil Herring, The Rabbinate as Calling and Vocation: Models of Rabbinic Leadership, Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson, Inc., 1991.

³ Our model for this ecumenism is "The Covenant and Code of Ethics for Chaplains of the Armed Forces," from the National Council on Ministry to the Armed Forces.

Within the Christian tradition, then, we need to be mindful of our own nuances of what it means to be called of God. Typically we might assume that to hear God's call means only one thing, and that is that an individual commits to a certain task or function on behalf of the Lord. However, I want to delineate four distinctly different strands of call that arise from the Christian New Testament. First, we may note that throughout the narratives of the Gospels and the letters of the Epistles, the Church is called to be the people of God, holy and set apart in allegiance and service to the Lord (cf. Rom. 12:48; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; and 1 Ptr. 2:9-10). In essence, we as the Body of Christ have a corporate vocation apart from which we cannot operate as individuals. This call prompts us to take seriously the issue of unity, both in theology and in polity, and binds us together with other Christians in a very real, yet very mystical sense.⁴ We are the continuation and living example of the Incarnation in the world, breaking into reality in a powerful way to demonstrate a new and better way of ordering the world around us, and pointing the way to the world ahead of us. Sadly, the first indictment that non-Christians usually can level at the corporate Body of Christ is one of our disunity rather than our unity. Yet difficult as the struggle sometimes is to be in communion with other Christians, our corporate call to be God's people is our non-negotiable mandate from the Lord and a continuing mark of the Church in the world.

A second nuance of the call of God is that of His call to the local congregation, or parish to be active in carrying out the Church's mission in its locale. If being the Body of Christ is a mystical function of being in communion with other Christians, then the role

⁴ This concept has been greatly articulated by those continental theologians influenced by World War II and the crisis in church/state relations. See especially Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his dissertation Sacramentum Communion: A Theological Study of the Sociology of the Church, Philadelphia: Fortress

of the local community of faith is a practical function of working in conjunction with other Christians. Clearly within entire New Testament, one of the distinguishing features of gathered believers is the propensity and task to operate by a different paradigm than other religions within the community (cf. Mt. 28:18-22; Acts 2:44-47; and 1 Cor. 1:10). Paul particularly admonishes his congregations to let their common faith in the risen Christ reorder their priorities and work, so that its individual's daily lives reflect the congregation's collective participation in the death and resurrection of Christ (cf. 2 Cor. 4:11-12). In our social context of hyper-individualism, this charge to live out a corporate ethos of allegiance to God is less than exciting, but it clearly is another distinguishing type of God's call to His people. Therefore, it must inform our understanding of the immensity of the call experience.

A third nuance of hearing the call of God is the one to which I have already alluded, and that is the call to the individual to serve the Lord. However, I want to caveat this by saying initially that the call of God to the individual is foremost a call to discipleship to Jesus Christ (Mt. 9:9; Lk. 14:26 and Mk. 10:28-31). That is to say, the imperative in the New Testament is clearly that the individual who hears and responds to God's call does so first as a result of encounter with the Christ and secondarily as a matter of service to Him. Yet both aspects of the call of God to an individual (to believe and to the act on that belief) are operative in the corpus and remain operative within the wider Christian tradition today. Paul more fully develops this call to individual service by relating it to living out one's baptism within one's individual vocation, or task, within the world (cf. Rom. 6:4), an aim that liturgical traditions continue to strive for today. Yet he

Press, 1998 and Karl Barth, Church and State (Church Classics Series), Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 1991.

always distinguishes this call as being sequentially second to an initial conversion to Jesus Christ and an empowering by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom. 8:9-11). However, we can draw from this aspect of the Christian tradition an important truism that should guide our development of an ecumenical theology of call: the call of God to a person is fundamentally a matter of identity, and our identity comes not from what we do but who we are in relationship to Christ. Moreover, what we do as a call will eventually arise out of who we are, but it can never supercede a commitment to Christ lived out in daily discipleship under the power of God's Spirit.

Finally, this suggests a fourth nuance of the Christian understanding of the call of God: the unique role of the Holy Spirit in assisting believers to live out that call in the world. From the earliest narratives in the Gospels to the closing chapters of John's Revelation, the New Testament is replete with the theme that God promises to not only call and empower believers to faith and action but also promises to be present with them in the difficult prospect of living out their commitment to Him (cf. Jn. 14:26-27 and Rev. 21:1-7). Indeed, the lordship of Jesus is born out of the crucible of conflict with the religious leaders of His day (cf. Mt. 21:12-16; 22:15-45). Christ warns his disciples that theirs will be the same fateful blessing (Mt. 24:9-13 and Lk. 21:12-19). This aspect of vocational theology contains particular import for modern Christians. John Stackhouse, writing about Christian Philosopher Alvin Plantinga, has noted that Plantinga identifies three particular challenges to the faith that form the social context in which believers live: "critical biblical scholarship that undermines the authority of the Scriptures; postmodernism and pluralism that undermine any claim to having the truth; and the problem of evil, which undermines the fundamental nature of Christian teaching about

God's goodness and power."⁵ If this is the pitch onto which Christians are thrown to play the game, then it becomes imperative to continually appropriate a sense of God's continuing relationship with us. Indeed, it would be disingenuous theology to advocate that God calls each of us to faith and action but then abandons us to accomplish the task on our own.

From this survey of some of the nuances both without and within Christian theological understandings about what it means to be called by God, we can begin to shape a common theological understanding about the process of call. This is informative because by understanding the process we can better shape the content of informed worship, religious education and spiritual direction that will facilitate people hearing and responding to God. In essence, by understanding the "how" of call we can better craft ministry that facilitates the "what" of call. It seems safe to say that in terms of how a call occurs, the process takes a similar shape in that:

- God calls each of us to committed faith in Him;
- God calls each of us to a specific task or vocation to undertake as a response to our faith in Him, and;
- God calls us to believe in His promise to be present with us as we live out our task or vocation in life.⁶

As one can readily see, there are enormous implications for ministry in the paradigm that I've outlined. First, it becomes apparent that to be called by God is not a once-in-a-lifetime event, but more a series of calls that occur over the course of a life lived. For instance, no doubt we can examine these three aspects of the process of call

⁵ See John G. Stackhouse, "Mind Over Skepticism: Philosopher Alvin Plantinga Has Defeated Two of the Greatest Challenges to the Christian Faith," in Christianity Today, June 11, 2001.

⁶ This paradigm and the one that follows form the crux of the theology of call that guides the Chief of Chaplains initiative to develop a culture of vocations in the Army Chaplain Corps.

and see from our own experience that each may have occurred at different points within our lives. One might easily come to an initial faith early on as a child, might come to a realization of God's vocational call as a young person,⁷ and might appropriate an awareness that God was constantly present in one's life only later as a seasoned adult. To be sure, God is continually calling us and we are continually responding to Him.

As well, such a paradigm suggests that a comprehensive program of ministry designed to facilitate people hearing and responding to God's call cannot take a one-size-fits-all shape. An intentional program to aid people in discerning God's voice might need a three-fold emphasis. Some ministries might be tailored to help those people unaware of God's presence in their lives awaken to Him and His desire to have a redemptive relationship with them. Other ministries might take on the shape of helping committed persons of faith explore their own graces and talents and the needs of the faith community to find a match in ministry. Still other ministries might be crafted with an intentionally pastoral focus. Veterans of the faith who have contended for it in ministries past might need to regain a fresh sense of God's abiding presence in order to realize a renewed hope for the future. A well-designed program of ministry that helps people hear and respond to God's call will take account of the process of call, so that the ministry that is offered to the community of faith will meet the needs of all of its members in their various stages of faith.

To return to how the nuances of theological understandings of call can inform our task of crafting an ecumenical ideal, we can correlate not only a similar process of call

⁷ See Tom Beaudoin, "Believable Hope: Shaping the New Evangelization for Vocations," Keynote Address for the National Religious Vocations Conference, September 8, 2000. He argues that because of the unique social context of the post-Boomer generations, young people of these generations "...will in

but also similar contexts of call. This is to say that cursory research from Christian⁸ traditions affirm that people most often sense a call in the contexts of:

- A supportive family active in the faith community;
- A supportive clergy person who identifies personal gifts or who fully articulates community need, and;
- A supportive congregation that values spiritual exploration and affirms the gifts of individuals.

Again, we see critical implications for ministry in this paradigm. Crafting an intentional program of ministry designed to aid people in discernment then goes beyond just process and takes into account environment. For instance, some ministries might be shaped to assist families in understanding generational differences and family dynamics. A possible focus could be to reveal how those aspects of familial life can severely hinder or help an individual sense how God is calling him or her, or at what ages some types of call may or may not occur. Other ministries might focus on marital health and the effect on individual family members of the husband/wife relationship. Still other ministry programs might seek to broaden the rich understanding of marriage as a vocation, to be lived out first to the family and second to the world at large, but again as outgrowths of healthy faith relationships from within the parents.

Regarding the second point of this paradigm, especially within the field of

fact have, several 'mini-careers'---perhaps as many as five or six." This social trend even more sharply delineates our need to be attuned to assisting people to hear God's call in their lives.

⁸ The only empirical research on the process of call that I have found is from the African American tradition. See William Myers, God's Yes Was Louder Than My No: Rethinking the African American Call to Ministry, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1994. There is much research occurring on demographic trends in ministry, such as "Graduate-Level Seminary Enrollments Hold Steady," The CARA Report, Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, Volume 6, No. 4—Spring 2001 and the monumental survey Faith Communities Today, The Hartford Institute for Religion Research, available on the web at <http://fact.hartsem.edu/>. I would suspect, though I have not research on which to base such a claim, that non-Christian traditions would also affirm these three contexts as being critical to hearing the call of God.

theological training, pastors, priests and clergy can be sensitized to the role they play in the process of someone hearing God's call. This clerical role should be highlighted during both initial seminary instruction as well as in continuing theological education. Finally, regarding the third point of this paradigm, congregations and parishes can undergo instruction in the process of call and tailor their ministries to facilitate this process occurring within their walls. A good example of this comes from many of the "seeker sensitive" churches, who, while adapting in some senses excessively to the culture, nevertheless have made great strides in helping people identify gifts and talents and find places of meaningful service within congregations.⁹

To conclude, two general truths come to the fore as we consider developing a common theology of God's call. First, the process of the call should prevail in our thinking, because understanding it can inform our efforts to facilitate our people hearing the voice of God. Second, the context of the call is also paramount, because people do not usually experience God's call in a vacuum, but with the support of families, clergy and congregations or parishes. No matter the theological parameters of our faiths, let us dedicate ourselves anew to being channels of God's voice to a world starved for His Word, and to lead others to hear Him as we once did and, hopefully, still do.

⁹ One of the truly exciting instruments to come out of this type of church has been the Spiritual Gifts Inventory. Adaptable both to differing theological perspectives and local congregational needs, the aim of such an instrument is to assist congregants in discerning their gifts and talents (usually according to a comparison of the spiritual gifts listed by Paul in 1Cor. 12:1-11) and how they can best be employed in the ministries of the local congregation.

Consider the Call
Introduction to Preaching and Worship Resources

The Purpose of the Preaching and Worship Committee

The purpose of the Preaching and Worship Committee of the Chief of Chaplains Vocation Task Force is to provide helpful preaching and worship resources in order to best celebrate Vocation Sabbath 2001. Sample orders of worship and resources are provided for the following service types:

- Roman Catholic
- Protestant Contemporary / Gen-X
- Protestant Gospel
- Protestant Traditional
- Protestant Liturgical

These suggestions and resources are not assumed to be comprehensive. They are presented to assist you, 'jump start' you, or save you time as you join others across the entire Army Chaplaincy on Vocation Sabbath 2001 in compellingly moving your people to ask if they "see the need and feel the call".

May God bless you as you build His Kingdom through our great Army!

The Preaching and Worship Committee
Chief of Chaplains Vocation Task Force

Consider the Call
Suggested Roman Catholic Hymns (OCP)

TITLE	NUMBER
• Be Not Afraid	387
• City of God	429
• Come, Taste and See	342
• Come to Me	471
• Come to the Feast	308
• Go Out and Tell the Good News	777
• God has Chosen Me	426
• Here I Am, Lord	440
• Open My Eyes	321
• Sent Forth By God's Blessing	534
• Speak Lord	423
• Speak to Me	421
• The Spirit Sends Us Forth	437
• We Are Many Parts	437
• We Are the Body of Christ	414
• We Are The Light of the World	490

Consider the Call
Roman Catholic Para Liturgy for Vocations

**Helpful Hints for a
Children's Mass or Para Liturgy on Vocations**

- Children can prepare banners in religious education class that support the theme of vocations.
- Children can choose and proclaim Scripture Readings in the Mass.
- Children can dress to represent different vocations: doctor, nurse, nun, priest, brother, mechanic, carpenter, soldier, policeman. This lends a nice visual touch to the Mass and helps children internalize the theme.
- Children can write a story or play to be used as homily and then act it out (i.e. "God Calling kids to be").
- Children can prepare and read intercessions for particular vocations (i.e. priests, religious, doctors, etc.) and for particular persons (i.e. persons associated with the congregation, installation, or diocese studying for vocations).

Consider the Call
Roman Catholic Liturgy Reflections
33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

The Readings of the Day

- **Malachi 3:19-20.** Warning against complacency, the prophet foretold a Day of the Lord that would spell healing for the just. The book of Malachi was written after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon. Faced with problems on all sides, many in the community doubted whether God would ever act on their behalf. In today's passage, Malachi responds to those skeptics.
- **2 Thessalonians 3:7-12.** Paul's letter reminds all that wait for the Lord's return to channel their enthusiasm into cooperative and loving service.
- **Luke 21:5-19.** Since only the Father knows the future, worry and anxiety are futile; patient endurance and joyful trust characterize the true believers.

Reflections for Developing Your Personal Homily

- **The Shepherd, Our Rock:**

As we look to the Middle East, to the Balkans and also towards North Korea and China, we realize that we continue to live in dangerous times. In confusing and difficult times, we look for stability. We want something to grasp, something to hold on to, something to believe in, something that is not affected by the dangers of the world – something to give us courage. In turbulent, confusing, and/or dangerous times, we turn to the God we know as Shepherd, who walks with us at our side in the dark valleys of our world – and in our lives. We turn to the Shepherd-God of Jesus Christ who gives us hope in times of trial and courage to combat all challenges.

- **The Shepherd Who Knows His Flock and of Our Needs:**

The Shepherd knows the flock, and when the Shepherd speaks the flock listens. God knows us, and when God speaks, we listen because we know that God's words to us are words about us and for us.

- **An Invitation to Young People:**

Pope John Paul consistently calls the Christian community to make possible the meeting of young people with Jesus. The church must become the traveling companion of young people, as Jesus was with the disciples of Emmaus, inviting and welcoming people who seek to find their purpose in following the Gospel.

Jesus wants to enter into dialogue with young people, and through the church, to propose the possibility of a choice that will require the commitment of their lives. The homilist may choose to use this opportunity to speak to young people about committing their lives to following the Good Shepherd, with the message that in Jesus we find someone worth staking our futures on.

- **Homiletic Focus:**

These Sunday Readings gives the homilists the opportunity to share their own vocation stories and how they have recognized the Shepherd's voice in their own lives.

On this "VOCATION SABBATH 2001", we invite the military Catholic community to pray that each of us may recognize the true vocation given us by God through the gift of Baptism. Our prayer is particularly for men and women who are being called to commit themselves to life as priests and deacons, sisters and brothers. We pray that they will be able to recognize the voice of the Shepherd and say "YES" to his call.

A Sample Homily for 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

- **Waiting!**

What exactly is this phenomenon that affects every one of us in a greater or lesser degree for all of our lives? The dictionary defines waiting as "(1) remaining inactive or staying in one spot until something anticipated occurs; (2) remaining in readiness or expectation." Statisticians estimate that in an average lifespan of 70 years, five years are expended in waiting ... six months of those five years are spent waiting at red lights!

For most of us, waiting is a fact of life that evokes a variety of ambivalent emotions. Think of the number of minutes or even hours of each day that we while away in waiting ... in the check-out at the grocery store, at the post office, in crowded bus, train or airport terminals, at the doctor's office, at the PX gas station, at the theater, or yes, even outside the First Sergeant's office waiting to be counseled!

When you really think about it, waiting could be thought of as the essential, characteristic posture of the believer. For centuries, the heirs of the first covenant waited for the fulfillment of all their hopes and prophetic expectations; they eagerly awaited the messiah.

Rather than epitomize the dictionary's first definition of "remaining inactive or staying in one spot until something anticipated occurs," the early believers in Jesus had to learn to deal productively with the "little while" and to redefine what it meant to "remain in readiness or expectation."

As early believers reassessed their manner of waiting, several other factors contributed toward the decisions they made for their future. Gradually, the apostolic

eyewitnesses who were the recognized authoritative teachers of the community began to die. One by one, their deaths made the community aware of its need to preserve their sacred traditions until Jesus' return.

Today, our military community is very much aware that we need to do SOMETHING to preserve our sacred traditions. The answer to our need for vocations is right here in our midst – in our own very pews – in our own military units – in our military offices – in our own military families. We no longer can wait for someone else or something else to change and/or to fulfill our need for vocations.

While vocations are necessary in every age, these vocations are even more necessary today, in a world marked by great contradictions and the temptation to relegate God to the margins in the fundamental choices of life. We need to preserve our sacred traditions that strengthen us for the earthly mission in promoting the Gospel teachings and messages of salvation.

My wish is that this annual VOCATION SABBATH 2001 – will raise up in the hearts of you – the faithful of this community – a personal response to the vocational call in your own lives. We need a more intense prayer to obtain new vocations to the military priesthood and to the consecrated life and reawaken the responsibility of all – especially parents and those who educate in the faith, to promote vocations. Our shortage of military priests, especially, is very real and critical, but is not a sign of a dying church in waiting. As all families do, we as a military family will manage and we'll trust in the Lord. We'll find a way and learn some things along the way. We must begin NOW and we begin with a serious commitment to listen and respond to the call of vocations. If you personally are hearing the call for a vocation to the ministry in the Catholic Church, you no longer have to wait to be invited. The Lord has already touched your hearts. The invitation is there and it is real. It is now. It is here. It is real. Let us not be like the skeptics that the prophet Malachi describes in today's first reading. Also let us not be overly anxious or worried about responding to the call of ministry as St. Luke discussed in today's Gospel reading. The Lord will not abandon you once the invitation has been given. No more waiting. Today let someone know what the Lord is saying to you in your life. No matter how tall or how short you are, the Lord calls. The Lord does not discriminate. I encourage you – I ask you – to tell and share with someone what the Lord is calling you to do in response to your call to ministry in the Catholic Church.

Am I optimistic about our Catholic church and her need for vocations? You bet I am! Yes, we are waiting for all persons – especially our soldiers - to respond to the call of ministry. These "searchers" need our encouragement and our prayers. Our hope rests on the Spirit, promised always to the church by Jesus, who never breaks his promise and will not forever keep us waiting.

Chaplain (MAJ) Rick Spencer

General Intercessions
The Prayers of the Faithful

- Let us pray for those who led our Church, especially John Paul II our pope, that they may be true examples of faith as the Word among us. We pray:
- Let us pray for world leaders, that they may seek justice and truth for our world community. We pray:
- Let us pray for all committed, faith-filled ministers of our Church – the married, single, ordained, religious and the laity. We pray:
- Let us pray that the Good Shepherd may encourage more faith-filled people to consider ministry in the Church. We pray:
- Let us pray that we may be instruments in the goodness and hope of God's word to each other. We pray:

Consider the Call ***Suggested Outline for a Contemporary / Gen-X Service***

Recommended Service Option # 1

Theme: All God's People Need to Discover His "Calling" or "Vocation" For Their Lives

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:18 - *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

Preservice Music or Video Suggestions:

- **"We Can Make A Difference"** - Jaci Velasquez
- **"Take this Job and Shove It!"** - Johnny Paycheck
- **"On The Street Video Interview"** - Record a 1-2 minute video of people at the PX, the barracks, or training, answering the questions, "So, what's a calling?" and "What's your calling?"

Welcome:

"Welcome! We're glad each of you came today . . . and no, we're *not* going to talk about how to 'take this job and shove it' this morning. Instead, we're going to discover how to 'take this job and love it!' We're going to talk about discovering WHO God made you to be, WHAT He wants you to do, and HOW He wants you to make a difference inside and outside His Church!"

(Optional addition if conducting the Network Seminar
mentioned in the resources below.)**

"Now that's a lot to tackle in one morning, so if what we're about to focus on really whets your appetite for more, we want to make you aware of a great opportunity coming up on (Date and Time). Have you ever wondered if your place in the military, the marketplace, or even serving in the church is a good fit for who you are? Have you ever felt like maybe there was something you were 'designed to do,' but you just haven't figured out 'what' that is yet? Then this biblically based seminar to discover your unique contribution and place in God's Family is just what you've been waiting for. See me or (POC) after the service at (Location) for information on joining the rest of the crowd that will take advantage of this nationally acclaimed resource!"

"But before we do that, let's start off this morning praising God and thanking Him for what He means to us by giving him our best in praise and song!"

Praise Team / Band and Congregational Praise:

(Use your normal praise and worship set or feel free to try the recommended songs below.)

- “Hear Our Praises” (www.ccli.com)
- “New Generation” (www.ccli.com)
- Live or video testimony / Story (1-2 minutes) from someone in the congregation of how God called them into their career or ministry and the satisfaction of doing what he’s designed and called them to do.
- “Prepare the Way” (www.ccli.com)

Scripture Read Casually from Someone Seated on Stool:

TEXT - 1 Corinthians 12:18 - *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?*²⁰ *As it is, there are many parts, but one body.*

²¹ *The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!"*²² *On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,*²³ *and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty,*²⁴ *while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,*²⁵ *so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.*²⁶ *If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*

²⁷ *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*

- “Open the Eyes of My Heart” (www.ccli.com)

Quotation and Prayer:

“Your *fulfillment* in this life and your *fruitfulness* for the Kingdom of God will be in direct proportion to your discovery and unleashing of the gifts, the passion, and the personality that God, intentionally, has given you. If you line yourself up with the gifts, the passion, and the personality He’s given you, in other words your “calling”, then there will be unbelievable fulfillment and fruitfulness. If you miss the opportunity to do that, it’s likely that on the job and in His Church, instead of fulfillment and fruitfulness, you will experience frustration and fruitlessness. Discovering WHO God made you to be, WHAT He wants you to do, and HOW He wants you to do it is that important.”

“Let’s pray over what God wants to do with us this morning . . .”

**(Prayer focusing on us making a commitment
to discover God's Plan for our lives, our "calling.")**

Drama:

1. Write a short 3-7 minute drama on:

- The humor of being misplaced in volunteer ministry or in your job;
- The satisfaction and impact that comes with doing and experiencing what you feel you were created for, or;
- The tension between being 'stuck' doing something you do not feel called or suited to do, versus the dream of being and doing what God created you for, or;

2. Use one of these prewritten dramas on the subject:

- "Somebody's Gotta Do It" (<http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/dramas.asp>)
- "Labor of Love" (<http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/dramas.asp>)
- "Wasted" (<http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/dramas.sap>)

3. Use a "virtual drama" videotape:

- "Somebody's Gotta Do It" (See above website)
- "Wonderfully Made" (<http://www.willowcreek.com/resources/dramas.asp>)

Solo Options:

- "My Life is In Your Hands" - Kathy Troccoli
- "I Surrender All" - Cece Winans
- "More To This Life" - Steven Curtis Chapman
- "Place In This World" - Michael W. Smith

Biblical Insight / Message:

TEXT - 1 COR 12:18 - *But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.*

- **Introduction - Illustration of Animal Training Camp**
- Point. 1 - God has uniquely given you the gifts, passion, and personality to play a particular position on His Team and in life.

*PS 139:13 For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.*

*PS 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.*

*PS 139:15 My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,*

*PS 139:16 your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.*

- Point. 2 – He doesn't want you to be ignorant about WHO He's made you to be, WHAT He wants you to do, and HOW He'll likely use you to do it.

1COR 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

- Point. 3 – Fulfillment, personally, and fruitfulness, spiritually, happens when you 'line up' who you are with who God has made you to be (i.e. "your calling.")

JER11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

- Closing Point of Application – (If using the **Network Seminar**) "Take a leap of faith and invest yourself in the **Network Seminar** to investigate or confirm your best place in life and on God's Team, His Church." . . . See the Need . . . Consider the Call.

Closing Prayer or Multimedia Closing Option:

- **Praise Team / Band or CD of "We Can Make A Difference"** (Jaci Velasquez) playing while a PowerPoint slide presentation or video collage of as many members as possible of your congregation scrolls or fades in/out on TV or large screen.
- **Remind and invite** all those interested to the **Network Seminar** if you're taking advantage of that additional resource.

Post-Service Music Suggestion:

- **"My Place in This World"** - Michael W. Smith

**** Network Seminar Materials**

(<http://www.willowcreek.com/group.asp?action=list&groupid=53>)

Network (Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins, Bill Hybels)

This outstanding, field-tested course guides participants on a personal journey to discover their unique spiritual gifts, areas of passion for service, and ministry style. Just as the human body cannot function unless the eyes, the hands, and ears do their part, your church cannot function effectively unless each believer does his or her part.

Network can help you get the right people in the right places for the right reasons.

Users cite results such as increased membership, increased volunteerism, increased giving, reduced ministry turnover, and greater ministry satisfaction overall. Working through **Network** together, your entire church can share a vision for each member and understand the vital role each plays.

The Basic Course includes one Leader's Guide, one Participant's Guide, Overhead Masters, one Vision and Consultant Training Video, and one Drama Vignettes Video.

Consider the Call **Contemporary / Gen-X Suggested Service Outline**

Recommended Service Option # 2

Theme: The Army Chaplaincy: See the Need, Feel the Call

Text: Ephesians 4:1 - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

Preservice Music or Video Suggestions:

- **“A Few Good Men”** – Gaither Vocal Band
- **“Will You Be the One?”**
- **Medal of Honor Biography of Chaplain Charles Waters** scrolling on a PowerPoint slide show with selected musical background.

Rank and Organization: *Chaplain (Maj.), U.S. Army, Company A, 173d Support Battalion, 173d Airborne Brigade.*

Citation:

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Chaplain Watters distinguished himself during an assault in the vicinity of Dak To. Chaplain Watters was moving with one of the companies when it engaged a heavily armed enemy battalion. As the battle raged and the casualties mounted, Chaplain Watters, with complete disregard for his safety, rushed forward to the line of contact. Unarmed and completely exposed, he moved among, as well as in front of the advancing troops, giving aid to the wounded, assisting in their evacuation, giving words of encouragement, and administering the last rites to the dying. When a wounded paratrooper was standing in shock in front of the assaulting forces, Chaplain Watters ran forward, picked the man up on his shoulders and carried him to safety. As the troopers battled to the first enemy entrenchment, Chaplain Watters ran through the intense enemy fire to the front of the entrenchment to aid a fallen comrade. A short time later, the paratroopers pulled back in preparation for a second assault. Chaplain Watters exposed himself to both friendly and enemy fire between the 2 forces in order to recover 2 wounded soldiers. Later, when the battalion was forced to pull back into a perimeter, Chaplain Watters noticed that several wounded soldiers were lying outside the newly formed perimeter. Without hesitation and ignoring attempts to restrain him, Chaplain Watters left the perimeter three times in the face of small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fire

to carry and to assist the injured troopers to safety. Satisfied that all of the wounded were inside the perimeter, he began aiding the medics ... applying field bandages to open wounds, obtaining and serving food and water, giving spiritual and mental strength and comfort. During his ministering, he moved out to the perimeter from position to position redistributing food and water, and tending to the needs of his men. Chaplain Watters was giving aid to the wounded when he himself was mortally wounded. Chaplain Watters' unyielding perseverance and selfless devotion to his comrades was in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Army."

Welcome:

"Welcome to Vocation Sabbath 2001. Many of you may not be familiar with that term, but we want you to know that we are excited about today being a special Sunday. It's a Sunday where we pause, along with nearly all the chapels across the Army, to focus especially on God calling people into ministry, especially the Army Chaplaincy."

"Now you may say, 'Hey, that doesn't have anything to do with me!' Well, don't be so sure! God's still in the business of calling ordinary men and women like you and me to do extraordinary things for Him like becoming an Army Chaplain. It happened to these men and women. They 'saw the need and felt the call.' Will you?"

Video of Chaplain "Calling" Stories:

- **Show a 2-3 Minute Video Opener** with clips of YOUNG chaplains and chaplain assistants reflecting on 'Why I serve in the Army Chaplaincy / How God Called Me.'
- **This should be an essentially casual**, authentic video of young chaplains inviting other young soldiers or military family members to consider if they "see the need and feel the call.")

PowerPoint Slide Scrolling Statistics:

(Silent scrolling for 30 seconds of statistics presenting the compelling need for chaplains.)

- "Was it an alarm clock or a calling that got you up this morning?"
- "Battalion slots go unfilled each year due to the shortage of Army chaplains."
- "By survey, the most trusted officer in a unit is . . . the chaplain."
- "Do you have a strong desire to serve both God *and* Country?"
- "Do you see the need . . . Do you feel the call?"

Opening Prayer:

(Prayer inviting God's presence, and the people's openness, to "see the need and feel the call.")

Praise Team / Band and Congregational Praise:

(Use your normal praise and worship set or feel free to try the recommended songs below.)

- "Hear Our Praises" (www.ccli.com)
- "New Generation" (www.ccli.com)
- "Prepare the Way" (www.ccli.com)
- "Open the Eyes of My Heart" (www.ccli.com)

Thank God for Chaplains:

(Use two live or video 1-2 minute stories / testimonies on "The Difference A Chaplain Made in My Life.")

Prayer Together:

(Use two non-chaplain parishioners [male / female if possible] to pray specifically:

- That individuals in congregation would see the need, and
- They would feel God's Call.

Scripture:

(Recommend an "off-stage" reading from the back of the sanctuary or auditorium by two people, a male and female if possible. The congregation should not see the persons reading; they should only hear them.)

TEXT - Ephesians 4:1 - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

TEXT - Isaiah 6:8 - *Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

"Saving Private Ryan" Video Clip:

(Powerful 7-minute video clip from the movie, "Saving Private Ryan.")

1. Start point is approximately 7 minutes from end of movie, immediately prior to PVT Ryan telling CPT Miller "angels on our soldiers" as CPT Miller lies shot / dying on bridge and reinforcements have arrived.

2. **End point** is approximately 7 minutes later as flag fades to black at conclusion of movie.

Biblical Insight / Message:

TEXT - Ephesians 4:1 - *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.*

- Introduction: “When we see a supreme, selfless sacrifice like the one we just witnessed in that powerful clip from ‘**Saving Private Ryan**,’ it does something to us, doesn’t it? It moves us, it stirs us, and it can change us.”
- “It changed PVT Ryan, didn’t it? When you are the OBJECT of such a supreme, selfless sacrifice it *absolutely* affects you, doesn’t it. Did you catch that part in the movie, an incredibly moving scene, where the now older Ryan kneels at the grave, and there amidst the green grass and white crosses of Normandy, he whispers to CPT Miller’s whitewashed tombstone . . .
- “Everyday, everyday, I remember what you did for me . . . the price you paid for me, and I’ve tried to live my life as a good man.” Why did he say that? Ryan knew that he couldn’t ‘earn’ back the price that had been paid for him, but he was so moved, so touched, and so stirred by what had been done for him, that, although he couldn’t ‘earn’ the sacrifice, he was compelled to “HONOR” the sacrifice. Why? Because when you’re the object of a supreme sacrifice, you are driven, compelled, to honor its cost . . . you want to be ‘worthy’ of the sacrifice.”
- “This morning, I want to remind you that in the screenplay of eternity, YOU are PVT Ryan! You have been bought with a price . . . an outrageously high price. I want to remind you that as good a movie as “**Saving Private Ryan**” is, there is an even greater story of supreme, selfless sacrifice when a real-life saga was played out on a town garbage dump, a place called Golgotha, on the outside of a second rate Roman conquered capitol called Jerusalem. This happened when Jesus Christ, God’s only son, sent to earth, born to die, the one who had done no wrong, and knew no sin, the one who did not have to . . . stretched out His arms on a cross meant for a common criminal, and in the greatest act of selfless sacrifice ever witnessed, *Jesus Christ took a bullet for YOU!*”
- “Does that move you? Does that stir you? Has it caused you to say, ‘Every day, every day, I’ve thought about what you did for me, and I want to honor your sacrifice for me.’ It ought to. Let’s pray.”

(“Dear God, in light of what You’ve done for us, help us to be open to what we might do for You . . . to be open, if You desire, to “see the need and feel the call.”)

- Message Outline
 1. Our Condition - There is a need
 2. God’s Position - There is a call
 3. Your Decision – What will you say?

(Call to Commitment / Altar Call. Have information cards and literature about the chaplaincy available for use in chairs or pew. Ensure soldiers know about www.usarmychaplain.com to get more information.)

- “After God giving His all to you in Christ, do you sense Him asking you to give your all to Him as a full-time minister, as an Army Chaplain? Do you . . . see the need? Do you feel the call?”

Solo or Chorus Suggestions During Altar Call:

- **“God Calling”** - Karla Worley
- **“He Paid Much too High a Price”** – Larnelle Harris
- **“Audience of One”** – Greg Furgeson
- **“I Surrender All”** – Cece Winans

Closing Prayer:

Consider the Call
Suggested Gospel Service Order of Worship

Vocation Sabbath or Call to Ministry Service

Praise Selections

“Praise Him”
“Our God Is an Awesome God”
“Lord, We Lift Your Name on High”

(The Praise Team is usually a group of two-six singers from out of the choir whose task is to prepare the congregation for the worship service by singing two-three praise and worship songs. Potential resources include: Songs of Zion Hymnal, Lift Every Voice and Sing Hymnal, Lead Me Guide Me Hymnal, The New National Baptist Hymnal, “Azusa Praise” [Carlton Pearson-CD], and “Shout in the House” [Fred Hammond-CD].)

Call to Worship

“O Give Thanks Unto the Lord for He is Good”

Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So!

Psalm 107:1-2

(The Chaplain or Worship Leader does this enthusiastically and sets the tone for the worship service. Potential resources include: The Bible, various hymn books and “Come Sunday The Liturgy Of Zion” by William B. McLain.)

Prayer of Invocation

Chaplain or Lay Minister

(This an extemporaneous prayer where the congregation must sense that the “PRAY-ER” is in touch with God. They must feel that God is a living, personal presence, who can speak to and is in touch with their times and circumstances. Potential resources include: Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans, James Melvin Washington.)

Hymn of Praise

“I Am On the Battlefield for My Lord”

(This song arranged by Thomas A. Dorsey [one of America’s greatest gospel songwriters/arrangers] reminds the believers that service to God is like being on the battlefield---it has difficulties and its rewards. Potential resources also include: Ev’ry Time I Feel the Spirit: 101 Best Loved Psalms, Gospel Hymns, and Spiritual Songs of the African-American Church, by Gwendolyn Sims Warren.)

Responsive Reading

(Could be a bulletin insert that is written by the pastor, a reading from a hymn book or a scripture that speaks to call or vocation [Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 12:1-3, Luke 4:16-20].)

Welcome or Greeting Time

(This is usually done by a layperson that ensures that visitors feel like they are welcome in the chapel family. This is very important to soldiers and families.)

Ministry of Music (Choir)

“Order My Steps in Your Word”

(This is a contemporary gospel song that asks for the Lord’s direction and guidance in terms of decision making. Potential resources include: “Gospel Music Workshop of America Women in Worship [CD or sheet music] and Perfect Praise by Richard Smallwood [CD/Song Book].)

Worship Through Giving

(Before the offering is lifted up and prayed for, the Chaplain or Worship Leader can challenge the worshippers to give God their time, talent and tithes. This also fits into the call or vocational theme.)

Altar Call/Pastoral Prayer

(The people should be invited to come to the altar or to stand or kneel where they are while the chaplain prays in such a way as to bring their joys, hopes, fears and longings before a living God. When they get up off of their knees the people must sense that the Lord has heard and will answer their prayers.)

Ministry of Music

“If You Can Use Anything Lord, You Can Use Me”

Choir

(You can find this song on a CD by Fred Hammond and the Motor City Mass Choir.)

Gospel Message

“Partners In Ministry”
II Corinthians 4:1-7

Chaplain

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

(The Choir or a soloist may sing a hymn such as “Is Your All On the Altar,” “I Surrender All,” or a gospel song such as “I Don’t Feel Know Ways Tired.” Some of the signs of a growing church or chapel are that folk are being saved, baptisms are taking place and persons are acknowledging calls to the ministry.

This part of the service is crucial and solidifies the challenge of the sermon and its call to Christian vocation and service.)

Benediction and Doxology

Chaplain

(The Chaplain can bless the congregation while alluding to a familiar scripture such as “God is able to do more than we can ask, more than we can think and more than we can imagine according to that power at work with in US!!” [Ephesians 3:20-21].)

Consider the Call
Suggested Collective Protestant Order of Service # 1

Let Us Call on God

Prelude

Call to Worship

"I Will Call Upon the Lord"

Invocation

Hymn of Praise

"Come, We that Love the Lord"

Welcome/Greeting

Let Us Hear the Call of God

Children's Sermon

(Ask Children to dress in the uniforms of different vocations prior to Sunday service. Emphasize that there are numerous ways to serve God.)

Hymn of Reflection

"Open My Eyes that I May See"

Lay Person Testimony

Morning Prayer

(Pray for God to lead each person to use his or her gifts.)

Offering/Doxology/Dedication Prayer

Special Music

"Much Too High a Price"

Scripture

Romans 12:4-ff

Sermon

"No Unemployed Christians"

(Preach emphasizing that each Christian has a gift from God and He uses them.)

Let us Respond to God's Call

Hymn of Invitation

"Wherever He Leads I'll Go"

Benediction

Consider the Call
Suggested Collective Protestant Order of Service #2

Prelude

Welcome and Greeting Time

Call to Worship

Responsive Reading (AFH) #720

Invocation

Children's Time

(Use 2 candles, one used and one unused. Light each candle. Ask the children which light is brighter. Ask which one will burn longer. Emphasize that the new unused candle represents youth and that God can use them all of their lives.)

Hymn

"He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought"

Act of Confession and Forgiveness

(Use a prayer that acknowledges our sinfulness followed by a declaration from scripture of our forgiveness in Christ. There are many rich prayers denominational prayer books.)

Scripture

Romans 16

Special Music

"For the Sake of the Call"

The Apostle's Creed

(AFH) No. 728

Gloria Patria

Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

Sermon

"The Church"

(Emphasize how the persons Paul greets were important to him and the ministry of the church. This is an often over looked passage. However, the list contains those who "risked" life for Paul, those who were encouragers and even one who was as a mother to him. That's church, a snapshot of the "many members," where all have a place).

Offertory

Doxology/Prayer of Dedication

Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer
Lord's Prayer

Hymn

"I Surrender All"

Benediction

Consider the Call ***Suggested Liturgical Worship Ideas***

Contents:

Traditional Worship Materials
Non-traditional Worship Materials
Additional Concepts

Traditional Worship Materials

For Orders of Worship:

- **The Book of Common Prayer** and **The Hymnal 1982 (BCP)** published by The Church Hymnal Corporation, New York, NY.
- **Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW)** published by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, MN.
- **Lutheran Worship (LW)** published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO.

Suggested Scriptures:

- **Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 3:1-14** (God is patient in His calling.)
- **Psalm: Psalm 127:1- 128:6** (God creates the results of labor and blesses us by the fruits of labor.)
- **New Testament Lesson: Romans 1:1-7** (We are called!)
- **Gospel: Matthew 19:21-30** (What stands in the way of your responding to Jesus' call?)

Collect or Prayer of the Day:

“Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers, which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.”

or

“O God, who set thine only-begotten Son to labor upon this earth for our sakes; grant us fair labor and occupation through the whole of our lives so that in our work we may reflect thy will and desire and that by thy blessing we may be a blessing to all the earth; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.”

Suggested Hymns:

- **“Awake, Awake to Love and Work”** (BCP 9, verses 4, 5 and 6)
- **“Be Thou My Vision”** (BCP 488)
- **“Christ the Worker”** (BCP 610)
- **“Forth in Your Name, O Lord, I Go”** (LW 380)
- **“Jesus Calls Us O’er the Tumult”** (BCP 550, LBW 494)
- **“Let All Things Now Living”** (LBW 557)
- **“Lord Speak to Us That We May Speak”** (LBW 403)
- **“O Hear the Lord”** (tune: BCP 412 or LBW 558 or LW 438, lyrics included below)
- **“O Jesus I Have Promised”** (BCP 655, LBW 503)
- **“One Thing’s Needful”** (LW 277)
- **“Preach You the Word”** (LW 259)
- **“Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”** (LW 339)
- **“Take My Life and Let It Be”** (BCP 707, LBW 406, LW 404)

- **Alternate lyrics for BCP 412 or LBW 558 or LW 438**

“O Hear the Lord”

I have been called;
You have been called too.
O hear the Lord as He calls
He gives this gift
To show His love through
O hear the Lord as he calls
Through God we hear all things
Let us all listen to the Lord’s call!

Be who you are
Write a new story
O hear the Lord as He calls
Let us be God’s
Sing of His Glory
O hear the Lord as He calls
Through God we are all things
Finding our being through the Lord’s call!
Hard at our work

Lax at our leisure
O hear the Lord as He calls
Make a response
Give the Lord pleasure
O hear the Lord as He calls
Through God we do all things
Let us create things from the Lord's call!

From birth to death
Through every season
O hear the Lord as He calls
His life our own
His death our reason
O hear the Lord as He calls
Through God we live all things
Let us all live now for the Lord's call!

Sermon outline:

- **Text: Matthew 19:21-30**
- **Law:** Not everyone to whom Jesus says, "Follow me" follows him in their work because the things of the world (riches, fame, family, home) get in the way. By these standards, the disciples are aghast because "who can be saved?" (Answer: No one.)
- **Gospel:** "With God all things are possible." Jesus has made it possible by his death and resurrection. And He doesn't give up on us but comes back again and again and says, "Follow me." Then through the Holy Spirit He makes it possible to follow him despite the world.

Non-traditional Worship Materials

For Orders of Worship:

- **"Holden Evening Prayer"** by Marty Haugen
- **"Now the Feast and Celebration"** by Marty Haugen
- **"Lift Every Voice and Sing"(LEV) and "Lift Every Voice and Sing II" (LEV2)** (Prepared by The Episcopal Church, this collection of musical pieces from both the African American and Gospel traditions includes service music and responses adaptable to liturgies of any denomination.)

- **“This Far by Faith” (TFF)** (This piece has two musical settings of Holy Communion: a new setting by Tillis Butler in a jazz-influenced gospel style, as well as James Capers' "Liturgy of Joy.")
- **“With One Voice” (WOV)** (This piece has two complete settings of Holy Communion: “Light of Christ” setting by Daniel Kallman, and “Bread of Life” by Jeremy Young. It also contains a new Service of Word and Prayer with music by Robert Buckley Farlee and J. Bert Carlson.)

Suggested Scriptures:

- **Old Testament Lesson: 2 Kings 12: 4-15** (Workmen are faithful in stewardship when priests are not.)
- **Psalm: Ecclesiastes 3:9-15** (Labor is a gift from God.)
- **New Testament Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-15** (God gives different work to different people for a reason.)
- **Gospel: Luke 10:38-42** (Don't work so hard that you miss the Lord talking to you.)

Collect or Prayer of the Day:

“O Gracious, Almighty and Ever living God, we give you thanks for the labor and the occupation that you have set before us. So infuse our hearts, minds and spirits with your will and your desire that we may be your hands and do your work in our everyday life, to the blessing and joy of all around us. Through Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Contemporary Song Suggestions (Music to be found at local Christian bookstore if not otherwise noted):

- **“Close to Thee”** (LEV2 122)
- **“For the Sake of the Call”** (By Steven Curtis Chapman)
- **“I Can Do All Things Through Christ”** (LEV2 186)
- **“I the Lord of Sea and Sky (Here I am, Lord)”** (By Dan Schutte, found in the “With One Voice” LBW Hymnal supplement.)
- **“Here Am I, Send Me”** (LEV2 126)
- **“Keep Me Every Day”** (LEV2 173)
- **“Seize the Day”** (By Carolyn Arends)
- **“Step by Step”** (By Rich Mullins)
- **“This Little Light of Mine”** (LEV2 222 or 160)

Sermon outline:

- **Text: Luke 10:38-42**
- **Law:** We can let our preoccupation with work stand in the way of our taking time to be with God. (Even those ordained don't get everything right!) We can even think we're working for all the right reasons, but miss the Lord's guidance. Our need to identify ourselves (boost our ego) through our work makes us miss opportunities to be with Jesus and sometimes makes us react harshly to others. Sometimes we may even be competitive or jealous because it looks as if someone else has a better deal in life.
- **Gospel:** The good will not be taken from us. Labor is a gift from God, but it is only God who can give us pleasure in our work, life, money, family, friends or any other earthly possession. When we have no pleasure in these gifts we have to listen to Jesus because he is the "one thing that is needed."

Additional Concepts

Children's Sermon Idea:

- Bring items or pictures that represent particular occupations. Have the children identify which occupation is represented.
- Ask the children what they would need in order to do that work (Usually they will say obvious things like, "a cowboy needs a horse" or "a fireman needs a hose.") Point out that for each occupation certain talents or skills are needed (strength, grace, smarts, etc.) and that God gives people their skills.
- Ask the children if they have thought about what they want to do with their lives? (They will probably give examples of what they have thought about.) Ask what they will need from God in order to do what they want to do.
- Then say, "Just remember, God has a plan for your life and for your work and God will give you what you need to do it! Let's pray!"
- "Dear Lord, we your children ask that you show us what skills and talents you have given us. Let us grow in the work you want us to do. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Internet Resources:

- <http://www.mdn.com/~func/Sermon%20Texts/000116.htm>
- <http://www.ivmdl.org/cbec.cfm?study=121>

- <http://www.catholicvocation.org.au/vocview.htm>
- <http://www.holdenvillage.org/publications.html>
- <http://www.dfms.org/worship-that-works>
- <http://www.worship.on.ca/>

Consider the Call

Suggested Scriptures, Sermon Ideas and Worship Resources

TEXT	TOPIC/THEME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Genesis 12:1-9• Genesis 22:1-14	God Calls Abram God Calls Abraham to Sacrifice Isaac
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exodus 3• Joshua 1:1-9• I Samuel 3:1-18• I Kings 19:1-18• I Kings 19:19-21• Isaiah 6:1-8• Jeremiah 1:4-10• Ezekiel 2:1-3:11	God Calls Moses God Calls Joshua God Calls Samuel The Testing of Elijah Elijah Anoints Elisha God Calls Isaiah God Calls Jeremiah God Calls Ezekiel and Places the Word in Him
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jonah 2:1-10	Jonah Prays and Accepts God's Call to Prophecy
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew 3:18-22• Matthew 9:9• Luke 1:26-38• John 10:1-18	Jesus Calls the Disciples Jesus Calls Matthew Mary's Call to Motherhood Jesus is the Only Way and the Good Shepherd
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acts 6:1-7• Acts 8:26-40• Acts 9:1-19• Romans 12:3-21	The First Deacons The Holy Spirit Calls Philip Paul's Conversion Gifts Used in Service to the Church
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romans 16:1-16• I Corinthians 12-14• I Timothy 4:11-15	Servants With Paul The Gifts of the Spirit Timothy's Gifts

Sermon Idea Starters

Romans 12:3-8

This passage speaks powerfully of the fact that each person has a unique gift from God. In fact, William Barclay writes that there are 3 rules for life. First, the passage urges us to know ourselves. Secondly, it urges us to accept ourselves and use the gift God has given us. Lastly, the gift a person has comes from God. Why do we strive to be like others? Why do we try to emulate the giftedness of another? When we neglect these 3 rules we deny our true nature, the nature with which God has gifted us and in which lies our kingdom identity.

Romans 16:1-16

I fell in love with this passage after hearing a Thanksgiving sermon by Fred Craddock on this text. This passage, though often overlooked, gives a great snapshot of the church at work. Consider the hospitality of Prisca and Aquila who had a church in their home. Consider also their courage to correct Apollos (Acts 18) and risk their lives for Paul. Think about Tryphaena and Tryphosa, possibly twins, and their hard work. Their names mean dainty and delicate. Paul uses the verb that means, "toil to the point of exhaustion" to describe these ladies. When it came to working for God they were in no way dainty or delicate. What about Rufus' mother? This unnamed lady apparently had the gift of "mothering" or caring for people. She was a mother to Paul and he is grateful here in this text. Paul surely needed a surrogate mother in the church for he had abandoned his past and family of origin to follow Christ.

I Samuel 3

I offer this experience to encourage everyone to think about how God uses us to call others to the ministry. Eli helped Samuel hear God. Hearing God or relating to God is the first step in the call process. More experienced believers must help others hear the voice of God. Think about how often the fellowship of believers recognizes the giftedness or call in a person's life before that individual recognizes their giftedness. We must affirm and edify one another.

1 Timothy 4:10-16

As I read this passage I hear Paul attempting to bolster Timothy's confidence and encouraging him to use the gift God gave him. I hear Paul saying something like this, and I paraphrase, "Do not let folks put you down because you're young and by all means don't forget that God gave you a gift. Don't set that gift aside searching for another. Don't neglect your usefulness just because you lack confidence. Remember God gave you this gift trust Him to use you. Keep yourself from getting distracted by others' opinions and talk. Remain true to your mission. Move out and minister, God sent you!"

Texts

- 1 SAM 3:8 And the Lord called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹ Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰ And the Lord came and stood forth, calling as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for thy servant hears."
- IS 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."
- JER 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹² Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
- AMOS 7:14 Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵ and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"
- MT 9:9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.
- MT 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it."
- MAR 12:43 "...whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- 1 COR 1:26 For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth; ²⁷ but God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are..."
- 1 PTR 1:10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, ¹¹ and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Quotations

- Your calling or vocation is "...where your deep gladness meets the world's great need". - Frederick Buechner
- "What do I mean by calling? For the moment let me say that calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested...as a response to His summons and service." – Os Guinness
- "For each one of us, there is only one thing necessary: to fulfill our own destiny, according to God's will, to be what God wants us to be." – Thomas Merton
- "The first Christ-suffering which every man must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world...As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to his death...the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- "Be prepared for a long and arduous journey...Do not demand or expect that people will appreciate either your learning or your loyalty. And yet, love them because they are your brothers and sisters." – Rabbi Norman Lamm
- "There was that little gentle nudging going on, and it's something that makes you know that indeed this is a call on your life." - Alfrenda Wiggins
- "I just felt God leading me in the direction of ministry." - Alvin Jackson
- "My calling was that there was an inner voice or inner urge or inner dissatisfaction with doing anything else except the ministry." - James Young
- "I heard a voice saying, "I want you to leave here and go tell your pastor you've been called to preach." - Carey McCreary
- "God just ambushed me...In the middle of a major career decision, I heard him ask me, "So if you are the Christian you say that you are, why wouldn't you give *me* the best hours of your day for ministry?" That was it – I knew my decision was to simply say 'yes' or 'no' to His Call." – Chaplain Jeff Hawkins
- "Vocation does not mean a goal that I pursue. It means a calling that I hear...I must listen for the truths and values at the heart of my own identity, not the standards by which I must live—but the standards by which I cannot help but live..." – Parker Palmer

Books

Gen X Worship and Contemporary Church Issues:

- ***The Purpose Driven Church*** by Rick Warren
- ***Rediscovering Church*** by Bill Hybles
- ***Blended Worship*** by Robert Webber
- ***Planning Blended Worship*** by Robert Webber
- ***Generating Hope*** by Jimmie Long
- ***A Primer on Postmodernism*** by Stanley Grenz
- ***The New Reformation*** by Greg Ogden
- ***Network*** by Bruce Bugbee
- ***How to Be A Contagious Christian*** by Mark Mittleberg

Vocations, Calling and Spirituality:

- ***No Man Is an Island*** by Thomas Merton
- ***God's Yes Was Louder Than My No*** by William Myers
- ***The Cost of Discipleship*** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- ***Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*** by Parker J. Palmer
- ***The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life*** by Os Guinness
- ***The Way of Life: A Theology of Christian Vocation*** by Gary Badcock
- ***We Have This Ministry*** by Gardner C. Taylor and Samuel D. Proctor
- ***The Call of the Disciple*** by Georg Fischer and Martin Hasitschka
- ***Called by God: A Theology of Vocation and Lifelong Commitment***
by Francis Kelly Nemeck and Marie Theresa Coombs
- ***Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life*** by Gregg Levoy
- ***Working the Angles*** by Eugene Peterson
- ***Under the Unpredictable Plant*** by Eugene Peterson
- ***Pastoral Spirituality*** by Ben Campbell Johnson

Hymns Supporting Vocations or Calling (Armed Forces Hymnal)

- **All the Way My Savior Leads Me** No. 113
- **My Faith Looks Up to Thee** No. 135
- **He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought** No. 136
- **We've a Story to Tell to the Nations** No. 209
- **Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah** No. 419
- **I Can Hear My Savior Calling** No. 421
- **Lead On O King Eternal** No. 427
- **O Jesus, I Have Promised** No. 428
- **I Am Thine, O Lord** No. 477
- **Take My Life, And Let It Be** No. 485

Church Drama, Liturgical Dance and Church Art Websites

- www.Willowcreek.org (Downloadable church dramas for use in worship.)
- www.dramashare.com (Church Drama, including assisting you in creating your own church drama.)
- <http://www.worshipdance.org/> (Liturgical dance.)
- <http://www.bensley.clara.co.uk/> (Kingdom Dance resources, to purchase helps for liturgical dance.)
- <http://www.missionpub.com/> (Website by and for Church Art Directors.)
- <http://www.worshipandchurchmusic.com/> (Liturgical worship and music resource.)

Preaching Websites

- <http://members.nbc.com/genxsermons/genxsermons.htm> (GEN X preaching.)
- <http://www.homiletics.net/Default.asp> (Homiletics Journal online.)
- <http://www.ctsnet.edu/NewsandPublications/JournalforPreachers/MainPage.htm> (Journal for Preachers online.)
- <http://www.lectionary.com/mindex.html> (Lectionary preaching resources online.)
- <http://www.collegeofpreachers.org/> (The College of Preachers website.)
- <http://preacherstudy.com/> (The Preacher's Study sermon helps website.)
- <http://www.preaching.com/preaching/> (Preaching.com online magazine.)
- <http://www.mtsm.org/preach.htm> (Roman Catholic preaching website.)

Church Music Websites

- CCLI Licensing www.ccli.com
- Integrity Hosanna! Music www.integritymusic.com
- Vineyard Music www.vineyardmusic.com
- Maranatha Music www.maranathamusic.com
- WOW Worship www.wowworship.com
- Thematic Solos www.Themesearch.com
- Community Worship www.communityworship.com
- Worship City Praise www.worshipcitypraise.com
- Christian Guitar Music www.christianguitar.ws
- Anglican Online Hymnals <http://www.oremus.org/hymnal/>
- Hymn History <http://www.crosswinds.net/~schfrs/hymns.htm>
- American Catholic Press Links <http://www.acpress.org/liturgylinks.html>

Video Resources (Tape Series and Website)

- “Sunday Morning Live” (Nine tape video drama vignettes from Willow Creek.)
- “Edge TV” (Topic “facilitators” and lead-ins for the MTV generation.)
- <http://www.highwayvideo.com/> (Six video illustration tapes.)

Church Leadership and Spiritual Gifts Seminars

- “Church Leadership Conference” (Willow Creek Community Church’s introduction to relevant ministry.)
- “Network Seminar”
(<http://www.willowcreek.com/group.asp?action=list&groupid=53>)
- “Career Track”
(<http://www.crown.org/cartproducts/product.asp?sku=PE950&aid=SCHOM>)

Other Helpful Websites

- www.barna.org (Relevant social statistics and implications for ministry to today’s soldiers and families.)
- www.Leadnet.org (Cutting edge strategic thinking for contemporary ministry.)
- www.theooze.com (GEN X devotional website.)
- www.youthspecialities.com (A bastion of contemporary and youth aids.)
- <http://www.youthspecialties.com/central/> (Provides other links to numerous helpful sites.)

Consider the Call

Introduction to Educational Resources

This section contains contemporary resources for use by chaplains, religious educators and lay leaders to help person's young and old consider God's call for their lives. These resources are intended to help them explore, understand and walk in God's call for their lives, with special emphasis on their vocational choices. The resources were chosen and/or created based on their usefulness to helping persons consider God's call for their lives in three somewhat sequential areas:

- Understanding the basics of their Christian faith - the "Be" of the call.
- Discovering their talents and gifts – the "Know" of the call.
- Responding to God's call on their lives – the "Do" of the call.

Many sub-areas or topics exist within the three areas. Educational experiences (sermons, ritual, events, Bible studies, retreats, etc.) that highlight topics focused on one or more of these three areas will advance the overall focus of helping persons consider God's call for their lives. Examples of topics within the three areas are:

Understanding the Basics of Their Christian Faith:

Mission, salvation, repentance, holiness, relationships, my community, the body of Christ, commitment, renewal of the church, empowered laity, symbols (icons), self-acceptance, worthiness, identity, effects of grace, how God speaks, all work is vocation, God at work, mystery, service, spiritual, basic needs;

Discovering Their Talents and Gifts:

Identity, spiritual inventory, self-examination, spiritual gifts, talents and skills, human personality, values, interests, effects of grace, seeking adventure, spiritual leadership, discernment, community, healing, brokenness, vocational lifestyles;

Responding to God's Call on Their Lives:

The Great Commission, vocation is God's will, vocational lifestyles, stories/testimonies/heroines of the faith, hearing the call, how to discern, how God speaks, brokenness as a pathway to God's will, true freedom, keys of blessedness (true happiness), costs of discipleship, affect/emotion of grace, struggle, sacrifice, personal courage, cost of acceptance, resistance/tension/barriers, impact on lives of others, impact on your life (peace, frustrations, joy, rewards), service.

Given the wide reach of the above areas/topics, it seems clear that many chaplains, religious educators and lay leaders already possess substantial training and educational resources which if focused appropriately can greatly help persons consider God's call

for their lives. The following list of potential themes is offered to help chaplains, religious educators and lay leaders focus their resources contemporarily to this end:

- Called to Understand, Called to Love, Called to Serve
- Be, Know, Do (According to God's Plan)
- Spiritual Quest
- Spiritual Search
- "Whom Shall I Send?"
- "Here Am I, Lord!"
- A Change Will Do You Good
- Commissioned for Christ
- Jesus is Calling
- Who is He?
- Come With Me
- Inquiring Minds Want to Know. . .
- Catching the Spirit
- Extreme Challenge
- Search for Meaningful Living and Relationships
- Escape from Boredom/Escape from the Mundane
- Extreme Faith
- Extreme Adventure
- Seekers of Christ
- The Search for Christ
- Finding My True Identity
- Meaningful Belonging
- True Freedom Through Sacrifice
- Hooah for God!
- Overcoming Resistance to the Call
- Spiritual Fitness

The following resources are recommended and/or offered to chaplains, religious educators and lay leaders to assist them in the ongoing work of helping persons consider God's call for their lives. Though by no means complete or exhaustive, these resources are believed to be both contemporary and helpful to the implied task (or "call") of helping others respond to God's call for their lives. The resources are provided for the following five groups (with some resources listed being appropriate for more than one group):

- Children
- Youth
- Family/Intergenerational
- Young Adults (18-25)
- Adult

Consider the Call **Educational Resources For Children**

Burkett, Larry & Osborne, Rick. **Your Child is Wonderfully Made.** Crown Financial Ministries (Larry Burkett), 192 pages hard cover, www.crown.org, (800) 722-1976.

This book takes a look at helping your child to develop his or her potential for God. It addresses:

- Understanding your child's personality type
- Teaching your child to work successfully with other personality types
- Developing talents through training, education, and experience
- Discovering the best career for your child
- Teaching your child how to commit all decisions to God
- Helping children recognize answers to prayer
- Guiding children as they learn to seek counsel

God's Call to Grade School Students. Online posting by the Des Moines Vocations Website (www.vocationsonline.com/gradeschool.html.)

This website offers vocation prayers, stories and interests surveys helpful for children in discovering their talents and God's call for their lives.

Sacred Hearts Kids' Club. Video #10: VOCATIONS. Distributed by Don Bosco Multimedia. 475 North Avenue, Box T, New Rochelle, NY 10802. 1-800-342-5850.

Primarily for supplementary use with Catholic religious education programs, this video is one in a series of 30 videotapes. Resource and Leader's Guide comes with the video series for classroom activities, theme discussions and experiential suggestions.

Consider the Call
***Non-denominational Educational Resources for
Junior and Senior High Youth***

Active Bible Curriculum: What is God's Purpose for Me – Jr. High. Group Publishing, Inc. Loveland, CO.
<http://shop.grouppublishing.com/prodinfo.asp?prodid=514>

This is a 4-week course to help junior high students discover God's purpose in their lives. This course will help students to discover what makes them each valuable and important and to see what purpose there is with God in their future. Lesson plans include:

- Who Am I?
- How Can I Make a Difference?
- Looking for God's Will...
- Setting Priorities

Curriculum is non-denominational and provides leaders with choices of on-target activities and relationship-building studies. Participation is maximized as youth are offered interactive group sessions and hands-on activities to learn gospel truths. Leader preparation is quick and easy for volunteers to implement.

Active Bible Curriculum: Knowing God's Will – Sr. High. Group Publishing, Inc. Loveland, CO (**<http://shop.grouppublishing.com/prodinfo.asp?prodid=514>**.)

This is a 4-week course to help Christian teenagers understand what it means to seek and follow God's will. The course will help teenagers to see how God's will is something "now" as well as future. It will give concrete methods for discovering God's will. Lesson plans include:

- How Do I Know God's Will?
- Doing God's Will
- Charting Your Future (considering future occupations)
- When You've Messed Up...

Curriculum is non-denominational and provides leaders with choices of on-target activities and relationship-building studies. Participation is maximized as youth are offered interactive group sessions and hands-on activities to learn gospel truths. Leader preparation is quick and easy for volunteers to implement.

Active Bible Curriculum: Making Good Decisions – Sr. High. Group Publishing, Inc. Loveland, CO
<http://shop.grouppublishing.com/prodinfo.asp?prodid=514>.)

This is a 4-week course to help senior high students learn practical decision-making skills. The course opens doors for teenagers to focus and practice decision-making skills. It affirms how the Bible and faith can strengthen those skills. Students are given opportunities to clarify and evaluate how they make good and bad choices. This course includes an 8-Step Guide for practical decision-making. Lesson plans include:

- So Many Decisions
- Hidden Hooks
- Seeking God's Help
- Picking Up the Pieces

Curriculum is non-denominational and provides leaders with choices of on-target activities and relationship-building studies. Participation is maximized as youth are offered interactive group sessions and hands-on activities to learn gospel truths. Leader preparation is quick and easy for volunteers to implement.

Career Direct – YES! Tools for Managing Your Life.
(www.polyweb.net/findafuture/pathways/yes.htm.)

This is a self-paced, biblically based career guidance system to help young people to find their calling. It provides positive feedback to teens for wise career planning. It also helps teens to discover their God-given talents and strengths as well as unique career paths.

Doing What Comes Naturally: Jobs, Careers, and Vocations. Crossings Series of Living the Good News. (800) 824-1813.

This series presents a Christian perspective on issues facing young adults today. Best used for individual or group study.

Gospel Communications Network. Online Christian Resources. Category: Youth (**www.gospelcom.net/welcome/categories/youth.shtml**.)

This is a ministry of gospel communications and 21st Century Gospel Films. The online collection offers multiple and varied resources for all youth ministries.

Top Ten Countdown. Cornerstone Media, Inc. (707) 542-8273
(www.cornerstonemedia.org.)

Tools are offered that promote dialogue on positive and negative values in popular songs, to include both print and audio materials to help parents, teachers, youth ministers, chaplains and educators who work with teens to communicate about choices and relationship.

So What Am I Gonna Do With My Life? Help Your Students Find & Follow God's Calling in their Vocations. Diane Lindsey Reeves. Zondervan Publishing House (<http://www.zondervan.com/0310233739.htm>.)

This course includes 4 self-contained lessons with attention grabbers and role models from Scripture, small and large group activities, discussion starters, and tools for practical application. Lesson guide youth through:

- Exploration regarding what the Bible says about honoring God
- Discovery of individual talents and abilities
- Making choices about their 'hearts' desires
- Seeking support and counsel from adults in their church family
- Trusting God to lead and guide them along the way

With this 4-session curriculum, youth workers can begin leading high school students into discovering answers to many complex questions of modern adolescence and youth today.

Student Ministry Combination Package. Willow Creek Community Church, Willow Creek Association, www.willowcreek.com, (800) 570-9812.

This curriculum gives youth leaders everything they need to run a full youth program for a complete year. Offering meetings and retreats to games and training volunteers, this all-inclusive package saves youth leaders hours of preparation and planning time. The Combination Package includes all 8 components listed below:

- Student Ministry for the 21st Century
- Impact Sports
- Life-Changing Camps & Retreats
- Programming with a Purpose
- Vol 1 - Walking with Christ
- Vol 2 - Compassion for Lost People
- Vol 3 - Learning to Serve
- Vol 4 - A Lifelong Calling

Dobson, James C. **Life on the Edge: Video #1 – Finding God's Will for Your Life** (<http://www.family.org/resources/itmpg.cfm?itemid=622>.)

Whether you're selecting a career, searching for a mate or choosing a lifestyle, "Finding God's Will for Your Life" will show students how to balance responsibility with freedom. This video enables viewers to make healthy decisions based on God's will. Recommended for ages 16 to 26.

Consider the Call ***Catholic Educational Resources for Youth and Young Adults***

Catholic Youth Update. St. Anthony Messenger Press. (800) 488-0488
(www.AmericanCatholic.org.)

This subscription is a collection of short articles regarding issues impacting Catholic youth today to include vocations opportunities.

Youth Ministry. The Center for Learning
(www.centerforlearning.org/youth_ministry.html.)

Ready-to-use, youth-tested and scripture-based Youth Ministry resources used to effectively engage teens in their own spiritual growth. Includes:

- Peer Ministry Resources
- Prayer Resources
- Liturgy Models
- Values Education Resources
- Retreat Resources

Doing What Comes Naturally: Jobs, Careers, and Vocations. Crossings
Series of Living the Good News. (800) 824-1813.

This series presents a Christian perspective on issues facing young adults today. For individual or group study.

God's Design. Interactive CD published by Office for Vocations of Los Angeles
(www.vocations.la-archdiocese.org.)

This is a unique multimedia, interactive encyclopedia of vocation stories, testimonies, articles, prayers, journal ideas, discernment exercises, and information on priesthood and religious sisters, priests and brothers. It includes:

- Guided meditations and hints to pray better
- Video testimonies from sisters, brothers and priests
- Resources and information about seminaries and religious orders
- Family activities
- A personal journal and ideas for reflection
- A Kid's Corner
- Guidance for discovering God's will for your life
- Ideas for teachers
- FAQs about being a priest, sister or brother

McCarty, Michele. **Christian Vocations**. Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2001
(http://www.harcourtreligion.com/senior_main_mn.html.)

This course provides vocations background and applications on the topics of self-understanding, commitment, the meaning of love, growing in love, and communication. The text also presents valuable information on the single life, the consecrated life, the ordained life, and the married life. The material on married life is followed by further extensive background on family life, with its joys and challenges. Senior high-school students will find important assistance in considering their vocation options and preparing to make decisions for their own lives.

Among Us! Lifestyle Set 2: Gifts & Calling. Harcourt Religion Publishers
(http://www.harcourtreligion.com/youth_ministry_mn.html.)

This exciting series of Bible studies designed for use with high school youth or young adults will help your group apply Scripture to the critical issues people face today. The Among Us! Youth Ministry series is divided into three sections: Identity, Lifestyle and Scripture.

Each section consists of 9 individual titles and is aimed at a different level of group readiness. The Among Us! Young Adult series consists of 10 books covering various topics, allowing young adults age 19 through their late 30s to continue their spiritual journey. The series offers a complete package, divided into 3 sets for high school youth, and 1 set for young adults.

Among Us! Young Adult Series: Careers. Harcourt Religion Publishers
(http://www.harcourtreligion.com/youth_ministry_mn.html.)

This exciting series of Bible studies designed for use with young adults will help your group apply Scripture to the critical issues young people face today. The Among Us! Young Adult Ministry series consists of 10 books covering various topics, allowing young adults age 19 through their late 30s to continue their spiritual journey.

Consider the Call
**General Christian Educational Resources for
Youth and Young Adults**

McCarty, Michele. **Christian Vocations**. Dubuque: Harcourt Religion Publishers, 2001.

A very well developed program, which gives a variety of options that could be used to develop learning modules, tailored to the needs of specific groups.
Recommended Uses:

Protestant: Substantial portions of the following chapters may be useful in resourcing educational programs focusing on discerning the call of God with Protestant youth and young adults. Though written from a definitely Roman Catholic perspective, many of the ideas (especially the "chalkboard talks") have broad application throughout Christian education.

- Chapter 1 – Finding Your Path in Life
- Chapter 2 – Choices and Commitments
- Chapter 6 – The Single Life
- Chapter 7 – The Challenges of Being Single
- Chapter 9 – The Meaning of Marriage

Roman Catholic: Total program is a great tool for Post-Confirmation Program and Young Adult Ministry. Focus on Call and Vocations using the following chapters:

- Chapters 1,2,6,7,9 – (See chapter headings above.)
- Chapter 8 – Ordained and Consecrated Vocations
- Chapter 10 – The Sacrament of Marriage

Ortberg, John, Laurie Pederson and Judson Poling. **Gifts: The Joy of Serving God**. Zondervan Publishing House, 2000 (www.BibleStudyGuides.com) or (www.willowcreek.com.)

One of the studies of the Pursuing Spiritual Transformation Series. Group sessions include:

- Use Me!
- Use My Gifts!
- Walking into Weakness
- Comparison: The Killjoy of Servanthood
- The Ministry of the Mundane
- Servanthood's Bell-Shaped Curve
- Abide in Him

Through personal study and small group interaction, this study will help individuals to develop a passion to be used by God. Students will discover their unique place in the body of Christ and how to surmount obstacles. Joy is discovered in serving others – doing together what cannot be done alone.

Consider the Call
**General Christian Educational Family and
Intergenerational Resources**

<http://cmdnet.org/genfaith.shtml>

Harcourt Religion Publishers
1665 Embassy West Drive, Suite 200
Dubuque, IA 52002
1-800-922-7696

http://www.harcourt.com/about/harcourt_religion.html

Harcourt provides a wider variety of videos for Intergenerational Resources that portray the lives of heroes and heroines of the faith in short story form. For Drama Ministry order Curtain Up by Robert Blaskey from Harcourt.

<http://cmdnet.org/genfaith.shtml>

PO Box 699 - Naugatuck, CT 06770
(203) 723-1624
cmdnet@mindspring.com
OR call toll free: (888) 723-2433

CMD provides Intergenerational activities and programs for families and parishes.

<http://www.centerforlearning.org/religion.html>

The Center for Learning
P.O. Box 910
Villa Marie, PA 16155-0910
E-mail:**cfl@stratos.net**
Order Toll-Free: **1-800-767-9090**

Center for Learning publishes biographies of Christian leaders, lesson plans and activities.

<http://www.morehousegroup.com>

The offices for Living the Good News are located at:
600 Grant Street, Suite 400
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 832-4427
fax: 303-832-4971

Living the Good News includes Intergenerational Resources published by the Morehouse Group.

<http://www.marketplace29ad.com/>

Free Information: Call 1-800-345-29AD OR FAX 616-429-5353

Email **BJGOETZ@marketplace29ad.com**

Goetz Publishing Co., P.O. Box 29, Stevensville, MI 49127

Christian Educational Curriculum provides resources with Intergenerational resources for indoor or outdoor programs, blends Christian Heritage and Jewish Tradition.

Judith Dunlap. **God is Calling: Together Time for Families.** St. Anthony Messenger Press. (800) 488-0488 (**www.AmericanCatholic.org**)

This is a new innovative catechetical series for the whole parish rooted in story. It can be used as an intergenerational family series and includes 3 sets of 6 books each focusing on:

- Yahweh Calls: Faith Stories from the Hebrew Scriptures
- Jesus Lives: Faith Stories from the Gospels
- Spirit With Us: Faith Stories from the New Testament and Church History

Consider the Call **General Christian Educational Resources for Adults**

Apply-It-To-Life, Freedom: Seeing Yourself As God Sees You. Group Publishing. Loveland, CO (<http://shop.grouppublishing.com>.)

Adults use active and interactive learning through group activities, Bible exploration, and discussion as they discover God's truths.

Apply-It-To-Life, Freedom: Discovering God's Will for Your Life. Group Publishing. Loveland, CO (<http://shop.grouppublishing.com>.)

Adults use active and interactive learning through group activities, Bible exploration, and discussion as they discover God's truths.

Career Direct Guidance System on CD-ROM, Crown Financial Ministries
(Larry Burkett), www.crown.org, (800) 722-1976.

The Career Direct Guidance System on CD-ROM allows you to profile a person's personality, interests, skills and values (from responses to questions) and instantly generates over 30 pages of individualized reports. It also comes with a career-matching feature, a series of audiotapes and other tools to aid in educational decision-making. It is specifically tailored to high school juniors and seniors who need to make educational decisions. Included is an Action Plan, Job Sampler, Guide to College Majors and Career Choices reference book, college major selection pamphlet, and Career and Education Planning Questionnaire.

Ellis, Lee & Burkett, Larry. **Your Career in Changing Times.** Crown Financial Ministries (Larry Burkett), 324 pages hard cover, www.crown.org, (800) 722-1976.

Presents career planning from a biblical perspective to help persons become better stewards of their talents. Topics covered include: Understanding changes in the Workplace, Making Career Decisions, Identifying Your Talents for Work, and Finding a Job.

Ellis, Lee. **The Pathfinder.** Crown Financial Ministries (Larry Burkett), 124 pages, soft cover, www.crown.org, (800) 722-1976.

A resource book designed for anyone making career decisions. It provides a biblical perspective on work and focuses on practical steps for evaluating occupational areas, searching for a job, writing a resume, and interviewing for a job.

Burkett, Larry & Ellis, Lee. **Finding the Career that Fits You.** Crown Financial Ministries (Larry Burkett), 186 pages, soft cover, www.crown.org, (800) 722-1976.

Suitable for individual or group use, this workbook includes a Personality Analysis as well as surveys for examining one's interest, skills and work priorities. This self-assessment process helps one gain a clear understanding of his or her pattern for work.

Bugbee, Bruce, Cousins, Don and Hybels, Bill. **Network: The Right People . . . In the Right Places. . . For the Right Reasons.** Zondervan Publishing House, ISBN: 0310213754, 8 sessions (flexible format); 2 videos, 68 minutes.

Network is a dynamic program, developed at Willow Creek Community Church, to help Christians understand whom God has uniquely made them to be and mobilize them to a place of meaningful service in the local church. Each participant in Network works through a series of assessments, which leads them to discover their unique blend of spiritual gifts, passion and personal style. The participants are taught the biblical nature and purpose of the church as the body of Christ and the unique importance of each member's contribution.

Network works with any size group, from small groups of 4-12 to large groups of 15-150 or more. It can be presented successfully in these different formats: (1) Four sessions of two hours each, (2) Eight sessions of 45 minutes each, (3) One-, two-, or three-day retreats, and (4) The one that works best for your congregation or group.

The Network Kit includes: Four-page overview brochure, Video 1 (Drama Videos), Video 2 (Vision and Consultant Training), Leader's Guide, Participant's Guide, Overhead Masters, Consultant's Guide and Implementation Guide.

Also available: Network Seminar Audio Tapes: Understanding God for You in the Church Network, ISBN: 0310244986, which is an actual audio presentation of the Network program by Bruce Bugbee, which follows closely the outline of the 8 Discovery sessions that are a part of the Network Leader's Guide.

Pursuing Spiritual Formation, a 6-book series developed at Willow Creek Community Church, designed to help adults pursue authentic spiritual transformation. Willow Creek Association, **www.willowcreek.com**, (800) 570-9812.

The first book in the series focuses on being fully devoted in the five areas of Grace, Growth, Groups, Gifts, and Giving. The remaining five books focus on in-depth learning about each of the five areas. In preparation for each group meeting, participants complete a Bible study and experiment with a variety of spiritual practices. What will be discussed in the group meetings is based on what has been learned from the individual study.

Walking with God Series 2: Discovering Your Church & Building Your Church, 2 books in a series developed at Willow Creek Community Church. Willow Creek Association, **www.willowcreek.com**, (800) 570-9812.

In Discovering Your Church, participants explore God's plan to plug believers into the life sustaining and nurturing body called the church. Building Your Church helps believers find their God-given role in the church. Its thesis is that God wants believers

to play a vital role in His kingdom and that he has prepared a custom-made position, perfectly suited to their interests and capacities, which allows them to be key contributors. These books are especially designed for small group study.

Jensen, Mark. **Shattered Vocations**. Broadman/Holman, ISBN 0805454470, 167 pages, hardcover.

This book is designed for persons struggling to find God's will in their lives, particularly in the context of change and uncertainty – job loss, divorce, a new child, financial hardship, etc. The book gives biblical principles, practical steps and encouragement to help these persons regroup and move forward with new vision.

Ford, David F. **The Shape of Living: Spiritual Directions for Everyday Life** (Oct 1998). Foreword by George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Includes chapters like "Faces and Voices Shaping the Heart", "Vocations and Compulsions – Life-Shaping Desires," and "Soul-Shaping Secrets and Disciplines".

Thompson, Marjorie J. **Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life**. Westminster John Knox Press, 1995, ISBN: 0664255485.

An integration of solid biblical vision and the practical, hands-on approach to Christian spirituality, that helps believers enter the spiritual through the practice of the spiritual disciplines.

Nemeck, Francis and Coombs, Marie Theresa. **Called By God: A Theology of Vocation & Lifelong Commitment**. Liturgical Press, ISBN: 0814659098.

A theology of the mystery of vocation and lifelong commitment. Focuses not only on priestly and religious vocations (or the lack of them) but also on marriage and single hood. First, the book examines the mystery of God's will as it bears on vocational discernment. Then, it studies several biblical notions converging on that theme: chosen, called and consecrated. Next, the book discusses at length the development of vocation and the unfolding of vocational consciousness necessary for a lifelong commitment. Lastly, the book presents insights into further vocational progress, once mature commitment has been established.

Edwards, Tilden. **Living in the Presence**. Harper Collins, ISBN: 0060621273, 164 pages, soft cover.

This book is a guide to spiritual formation for laypeople seeking a deeper awareness of God in their daily vocations. It includes 30 practical exercises for individuals and groups from the director of the Shalem Institute in Washington, DC.

Stead, Julian and Groeschel, Benedict J. **Saint Benedict – A Rule for Beginners**. New City Press, 1997, ISBN: 1565480988, 160 pages.

After a comprehensive introduction and some selected passages of Gregory the Great's **Life of Saint Benedict**, Dom Julian Stead presents excerpts of the Rule, intertwining his own commentary. For monks and nuns already following the Rule this book can be a rediscovery of Benedict's messages in the context of their own vocations; for lay people it sheds light on how to live their daily commitment to the gospel.

You and Your Priorities, from **Radiant Life's Biblical Living Series**. Wesleyan Publishing House, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, IN 46250-0434, (17) 570-5395.

Helps people discover how to prioritize their lives – including careers, financial and time management, involvement in ministry and leadership responsibilities. Includes both study guide and leader guide.

Messer, Bonnie. **Dealing With Change**. The United Methodist Publishing House, Abingdon Press/Cokesbury, 201 8th Avenue South, P.O. Box 801, Nashville, TN 37202-0801 (www.umpublishing.org.)

This book discusses concrete ways to deal with change, whether physical, emotional, life-situational, vocational or locational.

Boese, Neal and Haller, Patricia. **Spiritual Gifts Inventory**. Education and Evangelism Team of the Division for Congregational Ministries, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, 1995. Any reproduction of this resource is prohibited by law. Available 12/\$12.00 from the ELCA Distribution Service, 800-328-4648, code: 69-7255 (www.elca.org/eteam/assessment/OpenSpiritGifts.htm.)

Towns, Ruth and Elmer. **Women Gifted for Ministry: How to Discover and Practice Your Spiritual Gifts**. Also titled: **Spiritual Gifts for Women: Helping Women Find Joy in Ministry**. ISBN 0-7852-4599-5.

Do you sit in church every week and wonder how *you* can minister? Discover your special talents! Each of nine "task gifts" is presented with contemporary examples and inductive Bible study questions in this interactive workbook. Dangers or weaknesses of each gift are also identified. Includes a "Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire." Suitable for individual or group use. 128 pages, soft cover from Nelson.

This study is designed to help women to discover and practice their spiritual gifts. Some topics include:

- Evangelism
- Helps
- Teaching ministry
- Exhortation
- Giving

Wagner, C. Peter. **Your Spiritual Gifts**. Gospel Light. 0-8307-1681-5.

This book is designed to help students discover how to use gifts and time to bless others. Supplemental study resources include:

- **Finding Your Spiritual Gifts – The Wagner-Modified.** Gospel Light. 0-8307-1788-9.

An easy-to-use questionnaire and power tool *no* church should be without! Use this booklet - complete with the 125-question Houts inventory - to help church members discover and *use* their spiritual gifts. Lists 25 gifts found in Scripture, with references and descriptions. Great for new members classes or leadership training. "Plug it in" and discover the power to serve! 12 pages, soft cover.

- **Group Study Guide.** Gospel Light. 0-8307-1758-7.

Topics include:

- Rediscovering Spiritual Gifts
- What Are the Spiritual Gifts
- Discovering Spiritual gifts - Mission/Evangelism/Pastoring
- Find Your Spiritual Gifts

Delffs, Dudley. **Seeking God's Will.** Pilgrimage Small Group Guide. Nav Press. ISBN 1576830861.

It's often difficult to discern God's will for our lives. We want to obey, yet obedience isn't always the hard part-it's knowing what to obey that confuses us. If God would plainly tell us what to do, we'd do it. This eight-week Pilgrimage guide will introduce you and your group to some of the fundamental issues surrounding God's will. It will also help you explore the important role community plays in interpreting our Father's voice through Scripture, the Spirit's leading, and the counsel of others. The goal of this study is to help your group become a forum where members can learn to discern God's will together, rather than just learning what God's will means.

Eight issues that significantly analysis in discovering God's will. A sample of the chapter discussions include:

- Gridlock
- God's Agenda
- Does God Still Speak?
- Asking Directions

Consider the Call

Secular Educational Resources for Adults

Bolles, Richard Nelson. **What Color is Your Parachute? 2001 : A Practical Manual for Job-Hunters and Career-Changers.** October 2000. ISBN: 1580082424

For nearly 30 years, "What Color Is Your Parachute?" has been the guiding light for those in pursuit of satisfying and fulfilling employment. This year's edition has been completely revised and rewritten and is designed to work in conjunction with the book's Web site. At the heart of Bolles' formula for finding the right job are two questions: What do you want to do? Where do you want to do it? Answer those and you're well on your way to finding the job you really want. Packed with time-tested advice, "What Color Is Your Parachute?" works as a good companion for those just starting out in the "real world" as well as for those who are thinking seriously about a career change.

Bolles, Richard Nelson. **What Color Is Your Parachute Workbook : How to Create a Picture of Your Ideal Job or Next Career.** Ten Speed Press. 1999. ISBN: 089815880X.

Realizing that the average reader wants some indication of what is essential and what is optional, PARACHUTE has been completely rewritten--not just revised and updated. The optional things, which are useful to some readers but not all--such as Moving, or Dealing with Depression--have been put in the second volume, created and baptized as THE WHAT COLOR IS YOUR PARACHUTE WORKBOOK. The book that has been hailed "the Cadillac of job-search books" by the Rocky Mountain News, has just gotten better with this helpful companion volume.

Bolles, Richard Nelson. **How to Find Your Mission in Life.** Ten Speed Press. 2001. ISBN: 0898158591.

An exploration of the spiritual aspects of finding one's place in the world, from the author of What Color is Your Parachute. This is an inspirational gift for those who are new to the job market or reconsidering their place in it.

Consider the Call

Introduction to Discernment Retreats

The materials in this section are designed to help you facilitate retreats for youth (14-18), singles/adults, and couples. There are templates for one day, overnight and weekend retreats that outline the optimal time for learning for each group. There will also be a sample one-day retreat for youth that with a little work on your part can be easily used. You will also find many resources that can enhance your retreats.

In designing these retreat models the Retreat Committee believed that it was important to determine what components must be a part of the discernment process. The following are the basic questions that we believe make up each of the levels in discernment. Because this process or journey can be quite intense emotionally and spiritually, the order of the modules are rank ordered by level of intensity for the discernor following the CISM Debriefing model. The numbers of questions/issues you will want to deal with depend on the length of your retreat and the maturity of your retreat participants.

Module 1: Story (MAP)

1. "Who will guide the discernment process?" (Trust)
2. "What does God bring to the discernment process? What does the seeker bring?"
3. "How do I write my life story?"

Module 2: Connections (COMPASS)

4. "Do I see the connection between past, present, future?"
5. "How long has the discernment process been underway?"
6. "What has prepared me to this point?"
7. "Is there a seed to be sown (i.e. is this a beginning point)?"
8. "Why do I want to do this/go in this direction?" (Motivation)
9. "Why would I want to go in this direction?"
10. "What risks are inherent in discernment process?"
11. "What is the relationship between Being (identity) and doing (ministry)?"
12. "What is the relationship between grace and works in this process?"
13. "How can I identify my gifts?"

Module 3: God's Voice (TERRAIN)

14. "In the area of self-worth what impact will I feel as a result of this process on my sense of self-worth?"
15. "How do I clear out the noise? How do I let God clear out the noise for me?"
16. "What does the voice of God sound like?"
17. "How do I know God's calling?"

18. "How do I discern between God's leading and my ego?"

Module 4: Affirmation (DESTINATION)

19. "What is my support community?"

20. "How will follow-up occur? Will someone stay with me through this process?"

Consider the Call
Youth Discernment Retreat Models

One-Day Retreat

0900	
Ice Breakers	
Small Group Designation	30 minutes
Introduction	15 minutes
Module 1	1 hour
Break	15 minutes
Module 2	1 hour
Lunch	1 hour
Module 3	1 hour
Break	15 minutes
Module 4	
Personal Affirmation	30 minutes
God's Affirmation/Worship	45 minutes

Version 1 (Mid-Day to Mid-Day) Overnight Retreat

1300	
Ice Breakers	30 minutes
Small Group Designation	30 minutes
Module 1	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 2	2 hours
Break	20 minutes
2300	Lights out and hopefully sleep
0700	Morning hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Module 3	2 hours
Recreation	2 hours
Module 4 (2 Hours)	
Personal Affirmation	1 hour
God's Affirmation and Worship	1 hour

Version 2 (Friday-Saturday) Overnight Retreat

Friday

1930	
Ice Breakers	30 minutes
Small Group Designation	30 minutes
Fellowship and Food	2 hours
2300	Lights out and the illusion of sleep

Saturday

0700	Morning hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Module 1	2 hours
Break	20 minutes
Module 2	2 hours
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours
Module 3	2 hours
Break	30 minutes
Module 4	2 hours
Community Meal	2 hours

Version 3 (Saturday-Sunday) Overnight Retreat

Saturday

0900	
Ice Breakers	30 minutes
Small Group Designation	1 hour
Break	30 minutes
Module 1	2 hours
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours
Module 2	2 hours
Break	30 minutes
Module 3	2 hours
Pizza Dinner	1 hour
Activity Skits/Slide shows	90 minutes
Prayer Time/Bonfire	1 hour
2300	Lights out and the mirage of sleep

Sunday

0730	Morning hygiene
0830	Breakfast
Module 4	2 hours
1100	Close/Brunch

Full Weekend Retreat

Friday

1930	
Ice Breakers	30 minutes
Small Group Designation	30 minutes
Theme Introduction	30 minutes

1900	Fellowship
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Saturday

0700	Morning hygiene
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0800	Breakfast
------	-----------

Module 1	2 hours
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Break	30 minutes
-------	------------

Module 2	2 hours
----------	---------

Lunch and Recreation	4 hours
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1700	Clean-up
------	----------

1800	Dinner
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Module 3	2 hours
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Fellowship	1 hour
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Free Time	1 hour
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2300	Lights out and the fantasy of sleep
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Sunday

0730	Morning hygiene
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0830	Breakfast
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Module 4	2 hours
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1100	Close/Brunch
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Consider the Call

A One-Day Model for a Youth Discernment Retreat

Time Needed: Approximately 6 1/2 hours
Age Group: Grades 9-12 (Ages 14-18)
Theme: "The Journey"

(Breakfast might be served as a possible way of managing the arrival of participants.)

0900-0930 Ice Breakers

Examples:

- **Human Bingo:** A sheet with squares listing various traits/activities of people that the participants seek to find. Can only check off one box per person. (Getting to know each other)
- **Untangle:** Without breaking hands, participants must untangle their human chain. (Working together/problem solving)
- **Squat:** Make a circle; each participant sits down on the person behind him or her. (Trust)
- **Pretty Pixie Paper Cup/Luscious Lovely Lipstick:** Taking these two objects, start them in opposite directions around the circle. The beginning person will turn to the person next to him/her and say, "This is a pretty pixie paper cup." The person receiving the object must say, "A What?" and the person with the object must repeat what it is. Then the new possessor turns to the next person and does the same, however this time when the receiver says, "A What?" the possessor must turn to the original giver and ask, "A What?" and the answer is passed down. It gets very fun when both objects get to the middle and cross-- people have to try to remember which "a what?" applies to which item. This is just a fun challenge that teens enjoy. (Working together)
- **Ten Frogs:** Circled group must build ten frogs. Each person gets one body part. It begins, 1 frog, 2 eyes, four legs, ribit, ribit; two frogs, 4 eyes, 8 legs, ribit, ribit, ribit, ribit, etc until 10 frogs are built. Watch the group as folks work hard to make sure they get enough ribits per frog! (Teamwork)
- **Resources for Ice Breakers:** Encyclopedia of Serendipity by Lyman Coleman; Group Retreat Book pub by Group books; Idea Books by Youth Specialties.

0930-0945 Introduction (Retreat Leader or Spiritual Director)

- **Welcome**
- **Go Over the Purpose of the Retreat:** "To listen to what God is calling you to be and do."
- **Give a Description of How the Retreat Will Run:** Four segments to the journey (i.e. map, compass, terrain, and destination).
- **Go Over the Schedule for the Day.**
- **Identify the Small Groups:** (6-8 young people with an adult guide) and have them select a "family name" based on traveling (i.e. they might pick "The Wanderers" "The Good Sam Club," etc.).

0945-1045 "The Map"

- **Decorate Room with Roadmaps:** Have the participants bring a map from their "home" state or the state they last lived in. (Build the environment. Assumptions are that location will facilitate concentration and that mobility to other locations will be limited.)
- **Life is a Journey.** Journeys start with a beginning.
- **Learning Activity:** Make a Lifeline. Tell any significant thing that has happened to you (i.e., begin with date of birth, adoption, moves, schools, first loves, etc.). This activity is to support the youth's individual sense of personal history: Faith is always linked to the past; hope is linked to the future. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

1045-1100 Break (Youth love it when there are plenty of snacks available!)

1100-1200 "The Compass"

- **Leader Introduction:** "Your map stopped on today's date. Your tomorrows will look back at your today's and add them to your map. Someone has said, "Hind sight is always 20-20," that is, we can always look back to see what we should have done differently. However, can you know what God wants for you in the future?"
- **Key Life Issue for Youth:** Many youth do not have a sense of future. Life is a journey with a destination.
- **Learning Activity:** Make sure each group has a compass. "God's Voice

is like a Compass pointing the right direction for us. How does God speak to you?" The group leader should then give the compass to a participant to respond. Whenever someone wants to tell how God speaks to him or her, they must hold the compass. Then have the group make a demonstration for the larger group of some ways God speaks to them.

- **Resources Needed for Activity:** Music CDs or access to Internet music; teen magazines for picture collage; conduct a skit to portray the way God speaks: quiet, crisis, relationships, music, etc).

1200-1300 Lunch in "traveling" groups (Have them make up a theme song for their group).

1300-1445 " The Terrain"

- **Leader Introduction:** "Once you trust that God really does lead you, you can set the azimuth and begin to enjoy the journey. Because of the way God has made us, we all have different talents and abilities. These become the resources we have for the journey."
- **Key Life Issue:** Identity (Who am I?)
- **Learning Activity #1:** Individual Gifts Checklist or Spiritual Inventory. Do 'Pair Sharing' of their gift checklists with a partner while walking together. Have them identify how these gifts will help them in their life journey. Have them share where God has been working in their lives (this exercise is meant to help the youth look at their lifeline from a spiritual perspective).
- **Learning Activity #2:** Journaling. Have youth journal using these possible questions as guides:
 1. How has God been present in your life/journey?
 2. What does "God's voice" sound like? Can I hear God's voice?
 3. How do I clear the "noise" so that I can hear?
 4. Read John 21:15-25 and ask these questions:
 - a. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question 3 times?
 - b. Have you ever felt so bad about something you did that even though you were told you were forgiven that you had to be told more than once?
 - c. Peter messed up but Jesus still entrusted him with His mission. What does that say to you about how God can use you?
- **Alternate Activities:** You can also effectively do any of the following activities after the first two have been completed.

1. Assign various scriptures that portray people called by God and have the groups present a "drama" about the Call. Discuss how this scripture applies to them.
2. On an overnight or weekend retreat, conduct a skit to illustrate all the "noise" in our lives that distract us from God's voice.
3. On longer retreats we recommend allowing more quiet time for Meditation, Prayer, and Scripture reading/reflection.
4. If there is space available, you might want to create a "terrain map." Ask pairs or individuals to create the various features (i.e. Desert feature = "Think about a difficult time in your life--how was God there?" Quicksand = "Think about your most difficult temptations--did God provide a way out of it? Did you take it? If you didn't, have you confessed it to God and now feel forgiven or are you still trapped in the quicksand?" Green Valley = "Think about when God has been really present--what was it like? How did you think, feel or act differently?" Mountain Top = "Think about a time when things were so good that you could hardly contain yourself. Where was God in it? Was this one of God's blessings for you?")

1445-1500 Break

1500-1530 "The Destination"

- **Leader Introduction:** "In the Garden of Eden, God said, 'It is not good that man should be alone.' God has been confirming this ever since He uttered those words. He has put us in communities called the Church to provide us the love and support we need. No one is to go on his or her spiritual journey alone. We love others by affirming them and serving them; we love ourselves by allowing others to affirm us. The group leaders will help you to affirm one another. When your group is finished, please move quietly to the worship area."
- **Learning Activity:** Personal Affirmation. If faith is 'past tense' and hope is 'future tense' then love is 'present tense.' Have the group members take turns kneeling in their group circle while others lay their hands on them and give words of affirmation (i.e. positive character traits, etc.). Group leaders need to be prepared to break the ice if one of the youth may have difficulty in the group.
- **Worship Service:** Suggested themes for a short closing worship might include some of the following:
 1. God's blessing and commission
 2. Ratifying the Covenant / Claiming our Baptismal Vows
 3. Servant hood (Foot washing)

Consider the Call
Reflection for Spiritual Journey For Youth Retreats
(Directions for a Retreat Leader or Spiritual Director)

Materials: CD Player
Music CDs
Bible
Pens
Paper and Post-it-Notes

Read: Gen 1 (Creation); Gen 3 (The Fall); Gen 9
(The Covenant with Abram)

Begin: Point out all that is creation is "very good," including those gifts and graces that God has given to us, even though we may not want to accept those initially. Accepting God's provisioning of and presence with us may take time but God always calls us back to relating to Him actively in our daily journey (If people wish to share here, self-disclosure can be an effective group process).

Reflection: Have retreatants think of their own story of salvation, their own spiritual journey. Ask them to respond to these questions:

- "How has God called you to where you are now?"
- "Where is God leading you today and in your future?"
- "What is God asking of you?"
- "What has God given to you and what are you asked to give back to God?"

Place answers to these questions on a butcher chart or a board in front of the classroom. Again, ask people to share their responses with the group if they feel comfortable doing so.

Activity: Play reflective music (i.e. "Here I Am Lord," etc.). Allow retreatants to write their salvation stories (i.e. key dates, events or people in their spiritual journeys) in a condensed format on post-it notes. Then have them take their notes and place them on a butcher board or dry-erase board in front of the group. Discuss then how God has led all the retreatants in their individual journeys to the time and place of the retreat. Use that as a springboard to discuss God's providential guidance for the future.

Consider the Call

Introduction to Discernment Retreats for Single Adults

Purpose:

To introduce models and resources for leading retreats for singles and adults on the issue of vocation.

Models:

We have provided you a variety of models for one-day, overnight, and weekend retreats. Obviously, you can vary the format according to the needs of your retreatant population, but we recommend that you try and use the suggested models. This committee has much experience in this area and the formats we have provided are known to work in most of the unique retreat settings we encounter in the Army Chaplaincy.

Clarity Issues:

- Language may be misleading as you address the audience and spiritual leaders from various denominations. An example is a retreatant from a liturgical tradition may view the term vocation as emblematic of an identified role in the church (i.e. priest or religious). In contrast, free-church or evangelical retreatants might more readily understand the term vocation as equating with a “call to preach,” or even simply a “calling.” We recommend that for the purpose of your retreat that vocation be viewed as an emphasis on “journey,” “discernment” or “hearing God’s call” to the Christian life.
- Again, with the recommended emphases of “journey,” “discernment” or “hearing God’s call,” recognize that these terms uncover specific issues that are significant to singles. Many single adults have made commitments to singleness. As well, retirees or senior retreatants will have a rich understanding of and need to view life as a “journey,” but perhaps more in a historical sense. Conduct a good target audience analysis to prepare for possible pitfalls or distractions from your proposed theme. Then, arrange the amount of material for the retreat based on the needs and abilities of your retreatant population.
- We did not suggest specific scriptural texts or themes so that you, the retreat leader, can select biblical texts with which you are more comfortable.
- Married adults may find themselves attending these retreats apart from their spouses. Be sensitive to the fact that with these retreatants, they may encounter significant issues around “journey,” “discernment” or “hearing the call” that are bound up in the shared experiences, dreams, plans (or lack thereof) of their marriages.

Resources:

As you review the suggested models for retreats, use the resource list to support your preparation for the respective modules. There is so much available on this subject; you may already have resources to assist you. Being current and knowing your target audience is paramount. Some of the suggested resources will assist you in learning the dynamics of your audience.

Consider the Call
Single Adults Discernment Retreat Models

(Singles as well as other adults ought to be considered by age, gender, marital status, etc. Conduct a thorough target audience analysis before each retreat and shape the content accordingly.)

One-Day Retreat

0900	
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	30 minutes
Introduction of the Theme	15 minutes
Module 1 (Story)	90 minutes
Break	15 minutes
Module 2 (Connections)	90 minutes
Lunch	1 hour
Module 3 (God's Voice)	1 hour and 45 minutes
Break	15 minutes
Module 4 (Affirmation)	1 hour
Closing Time of Personal And Group Prayer	30 minutes

Version 1 (Mid-day to Mid-day) Overnight Retreat

1300	
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	1 hour
Introduction of the Theme	30 minutes
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Dinner	1 hour
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours
Fellowship	1 hour
Group Evening Prayer	1 hour
2300	Lights out and hopefully sleep
0700	Morning hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours
Lunch	1 hour
Closing Time of Personal And Group Prayer	30 minutes

Version 2 (Friday-Saturday) Overnight Retreat

Friday

1930-2100	
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	90 minutes
Fellowship and Food	1 hour
Evening Group Prayer	1 hour
2300	Lights out and the illusion of sleep

Saturday

0700	Morning hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes
Module 1 (Story)	90 minutes
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours
Community Meal	1 hour

Version 3 (Saturday-Sunday) Overnight Retreat

Saturday

0900	
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	90 minutes
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours
Dinner	1 hour
Personal Reflection Time	90 minutes
Evening Group Prayer	1 hour
2300	Lights out and pray for sleep

Sunday

0700	Personal hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours
Community Brunch	1 hour

Weekend Retreat

Friday

1930	
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	1 hour
Introduction of the Theme	30 minutes
Food and Fellowship	2 hours
2300	Lights out and hope for sleep

Saturday

0700	Personal hygiene
0800	Breakfast
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours
Break	20-30 minutes
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours
Lunch and Personal Time	90 minutes
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours
Personal Reflection	2 hours
Dinner	1 hour
Group Fellowship	2 hours
Evening Group Prayer	30 minutes
2300	Lights out and mercifully beg for sleep

Sunday

0700	Personal hygiene
0800	Breakfast
*Group Worship	1 hour
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours
Lunch and Close	1 hour

(*Since you may have a mixture of denominational traditions represented in your retreat participants, it's advisable to provide for both Protestant and Catholic worship during this time.)

Consider the Call

A One-Session Model for an Adult Discernment Retreat

A Discerning Ministry Exploration Training Session for Adults – “Baptism: A Call To Ministry For Each Member of the Church”

www.episcopalchurch.org/ministry/dailylife/mdl10206.htm

Purpose: To gain an understanding that all baptized persons, by virtue of their baptism, are ministers of the Body of Christ.

Introduction (10 minutes)

- Conduct Opening Prayer for Vocations.
- Review session format.
- Overview/Purpose of session (by group leader).

In our exploration of faith and works we want to examine for ourselves the statement: Baptism is not only incorporation into the Church, but also a calling to ministry in the world. Christ ordains us at baptism for a mission in the world. Christ incorporates us into his Body, the Church, endows us with talents and abilities we work to develop. Each member of the Church is called to share his or her talents in that mission. Baptism, therefore, is both a call and a commissioning to ministry as representatives of Christ in the world.

Reading and Discussion (20 minutes)

As a whole group answer the questions:

- "Who are the ministers of the Church?"
- "What is the ministry of the Church?"

Discuss in small groups of six to eight persons: (45 minutes) (Be prepared to share main points for report back.)

- Christ's mission in the world today as I understand it is...
- Christ carries out this ministry today by...

In the book, **Resident Aliens** (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1989) authors Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon state, "All Christians, by their Baptism, are 'ordained' to share Christ's work in the world." Do you agree/disagree? Why?

Re-assemble into the whole group for sharing. Each small group gives a summary of the major insights coming out of its discussion. Share in the large group any new insights that may emerge as a result of the small group sharing. Take a break if necessary at this point.

Further Discussion (45 minutes)

Break into small groups of four persons. Read the three questions on the top of BCP, p. 305. (Be prepared to report back major points in larger group.) For each of these vows discuss:

- “For me, this vow means...”
- “The opportunities I have each day to respond to these vows are...”
- “If I respond to these vows I will...”
- “I am engaged in ministry. Why? Or, why not?”

Report back to the whole group a summary of the major insights coming out of each small group discussion. Break into small groups of six to eight people. (45 minutes) Discuss: “This faith community could do the following specific things to support the ministry of each Baptized person...”

Develop a list. List everything that people say without discussing it. Reconvene in a large group to share the small group response. Look over the list. Develop a few concrete steps that members of the group believe would assist them in ministry as representatives of Christ in their world of home, work, community, leisure, etc. Whether you continue or not, have people pair up to support one another as they work on the concrete steps.

Closing Prayer

Excerpted from **The People of God in the World: A Handbook for Congregations in Mutual Ministry**, Diocese of Massachusetts. Used with permission.

*Note: This session could be broken into two separate meetings or held as one, depending on the amount of time needed to complete it. Be sure to add the opening prayer and the closing format for a second session as appropriate. Note the excellent additional resource of the following book: **Jean Manners. The Ministry of the Laity in Word and Sacrament.** (Unpublished pamphlet, available through the Diocese of Massachusetts).

Consider the Call **A One-Day Model for an Adult Discernment Retreat**

Time: 8 hours
Age Group: 19 and older
Theme: "The Journey"

**(Breakfast might be served as a possible way of
managing the arrival of participants.)**

Prior to Arrival of the Group Preparation

- **Set up a worshipful environment.** You might place pictures on the walls of people traveling e.g. posters, etc.
- **Make sure to have a worship center.** If you are going to have communion or celebrate the Mass, you might have place things in front of the altar that speak of a journey (i.e. a travel stick, a suitcase, etc.). You can drape it with a colorful cloth and add candles.
- **You will need a small bell.**
- **Prepare large butcher-block paper and place it on the walls around the room.** If your markers bleed, then double the butcher block. On each sheet write one question or statement, for instance:
 1. "I am here today to...."
 2. "Discerning God's will means...."
 3. "God speaks to me through...."
 4. "I think God has given me the following gift...."
 5. "Mentoring means...."
 6. "I want most to...."
 7. "The ministry, I feel the most passionate about is...."

(These are examples, add your own.)

- **Prepare handouts for the icebreaker.** Ask people to indicate their choice of preferred music.
- **For the 1st module (Story):** Collect all kinds of magazines that have lots of pictures that can be destroyed. Make sure there is a broad selection of magazines that will appeal to all kinds of interests: hunting, women's issues, computers, etc. You will also need butcher-block paper and glue sticks. Do not

provide scissors. Scissors inhibit adults as they focus on making a neat product. Let them rip the paper. Process is important here, not the product!

- **For the 2nd module (Connections):** Individuals will need magic markers, pen or pencil, and a small notebook (unless they already have a journal).
- **For 3rd module (God's Voice):** You will need to preview several Spiritual Gifts Inventories before hand. Select the one you feel best meets the needs of your situation (e.g. budget, time, etc.). Individuals will need Bible, journal, markers, and multi-colored construction paper cut into 4" x 4" squares.
- **For 4th module (Affirmation):** You will need background music and ecclesiastical and worship supplies to conduct for the worship service.

0845-0900 Gathering

- **As adults enter the meeting space, make sure you are ready for them.** Welcome them warmly to the day of retreat. Invite them to put on a nametag and encourage them to get coffee, etc.
- **Then invite them to respond to the sentences or questions on the butcher-block paper.** This gives them something to do while they are waiting and also begins to direct their thinking to discernment and God's will.
- **Allow for several minutes of socializing.** When it appears almost everyone is present, call everyone together into a large group.

0910-0915 Opening Prayer or Morning Prayer

(You might sing 1 or 2 choruses. The prayer can be printed or extemporaneous, but should not be too threatening.)

0915-0930 Icebreakers

- **Examples: "You're Like Me!"**

Have adults select one from each category of the following:

1. Leisure: Reading, Music, Sports, and Computer
2. Vacations: Sea, Mountains, Deserts, and Forests
3. Cars: Racecars, Vans, Sport Utility Vehicles, and Sedans
4. Food: Sweets, Salty, Crunchy, and Healthy
5. Music: Country, Classical, Jazz, Rock (If you have a young adult group, add modern names like Hip Hop, etc.)

Have them turn to the person next to them and compare their choices under the Leisure section. After they have compared themselves to one other person, have them search for someone “like them” in the Car section and then the Food section (only do this for a couple of minutes). Finally, have them find someone like them in the Music section. When they find someone, have them sit down and discuss why they like the music they do. (This is your pair or your basic unit for the day.)

After they have had some time to share, tell them that this person is their “Travel Partner” and that they will be together on and off through the day. Ask them to identify two things:

1. “My name is....”
2. “I came today to....”

Have the groups of two reach out and grab another group near them. (This will total 4 for sharing during the day). It doesn’t matter whether they were alike on their choice selections. Have them discuss their different choices.

(This idea came from Faith at Work Leadership Training Institute.)

- **Continuum:** If you have enough groups, have two groups of four (total of 8 people) come together for a fun icebreaker. The point is to beat the other group of 8. Goal is to have the groups arrange themselves in continuums as fast as they can. For instance say,
 1. “Arrange yourselves in order of your birthdays starting with 1 January.”
 2. “Arrange yourselves in alphabetical order according to your last name.”
 3. “Arrange yourselves by the number of schools you have attended.”

(I think this comes from Sidney Simon’s book on Values Clarification)

After this game begins to fade a little (always stop before it dies), have them pull chairs around and sit back down in their groups of 4 from above. Depending on the age and flexibility, they can sit around tables or on the floor. As the laughter dies down, have them introduce themselves and tell something about themselves:

1. “My name is....”
2. “I am single and live in the barracks.... have two children.... etc.”

0930-0945 Introduction (Retreat Leader or Spiritual Director)

- **Welcome Retreatants and Introduce Yourself as the Leader/Spiritual Director.**
- **Go Over the Purpose of the Retreat:** "Our purpose today is to help you more effectively listen to who God is calling you to be and what He is calling you to do!"

- **Give a Description of How the Retreat Will Run** (Four segments to the journey: map, compass, terrain, and the destination). Tell them that they will be spending time alone today, as well as with their travel partner and their group.
- **Go Over the Schedule for the day.** Tell them that there will be scheduled breaks, but if they need to use the restroom, get refreshments, etc. that they are adults and can take care of themselves.
- **Identify the Small Groups (4 adults).** Have them select a group name based on traveling (i.e. they might pick "The Wanderers", "Fork in the Road", "Whistle Stop," etc.)

0945-1045 "The Map" (Story)

- **Draw attention to the posters on the walls.**
- **"Life is a Journey."** Journeys start with a beginning point in time. Unlike, young people or teenagers, these individuals have some life experiences. They have started already their life journey. Some may even be retirement age. The focus of this time is to tell that story or outline the journey through a collage.
- **Learning Activity:** Give each individual a large piece of butcher paper. Tell them that they are to make a collage. Place magazines on the floor or on a table in the middle of the room. Also, put glue sticks there. Tell them that this will be an exercise that they will do as an individual. They can spread out and find a spot to put their collage together. Don't give into to pressure to relinquish scissors. In fact, don't even have them in sight. Also, don't tell them how to do it. Give them simple instructions like: "Using the magazines and glue sticks provided make a collage of your life. Where has your journey led you? I will let you know how much time you have left." Give them about 20 minutes to complete this task. Some may get a slow start so at about 10 minutes tell them that they have 10 minutes left.
- **At 20 minutes break into their group activity.** Say, "As you finish your collage, find your travel group of four and find a comfortable place to sit and talk. I will remind you to move on to the next person so that everyone will have a chance to share. You will have about 10 minutes each."
- **Then invite them to share their collages with their travel group.** This is really telling their life story e.g. "I was born in Toledo but we moved to Texas when I was two, etc." "We lost our son to leukemia..."

(Activity is to support the person's individual sense of history. Faith is always linked to the past; hope is linked to the future. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

[Hebrews 11:1].)

- **Note: as you said you would tell them at 10 minute intervals to move to the next person.** After while you won't have to do this as they will begin their group management themselves, they are adults.

1045-1100 Break

(Provide lots of fresh fruit, etc. Adults often have special food requirements. Provide plenty of drinking water.)

1100-1200 "The Compass" (Connections)

- **Leader introduction suggestion:** "Your collage stopped at today. You spent time sharing with each other how you got to where you are today...your life journey. Your tomorrows will look back at your today's and add them to your map. Someone has said, "Hind sight is always 20-20," that is, we can always look backwards to see what we should have done differently. However, can you know what God wants for you in the future? What we are about today is looking at where we came from and where we are going. Now we are going to look back on our lives and see where we have been."
- **Learning Activity:** The purpose of this time is for each person to reflect back on their lives and make connections, to see where they were being lead, to now see where God was with them when they thought they were alone.
- **Discuss how this is an activity that will begin again with each of us as an individual.** "Each of our lives has major milestones, moments that were turning points. Some of these were positive while others were negative. What have been the main milestones in your life? Take the magic markers available to you and indicate on your collage in some way the major milestones in your life. If you need to add something to your collage, feel free to do so. You will have about 10 minutes to do this exercise."

(This shouldn't take long so watch to see that people don't finish and begin to chatter, if it looks like most are finished, move on to the next section.)

- **Call the individual's attention back to you.** Say, "During the next 20 minutes, I want to give you some time to reflect on your journey and your milestones. You may do this in a manner comfortable to you. You may sit back where you are, you may get up and take a short walk or you can go into the chapel. Just stay within the sound of this bell (*ring a bell*). I am giving you a small notepad and pen for you to make notes. If you already have a journal feel free to use it today. Let's note just a word of caution about journaling. Journaling is a wonderful tool to use to reflect on your spiritual journey. It helps to express where you are and look back on where you have been. All people journal in different ways. It is not a diary like we recognize. It is a kind of a spiritual diary, if you will. You can write prose, poetry, draw, make bullet statements, etc. However, you want. It is a tool

for your use. To get your started as you take this time of reflection here are some questions you might ask yourself:

1. "Do I see a connection between past, present, future?"
 2. "Where has God been obvious in my journey? Have there been seeds planted along the way? Where?"
 3. "How long have I been on this journey?"
 4. "Where do I think God is leading me?"
 5. "What gifts or skills have I been given or developed as I journeyed?"
- **At the end of the 20 minutes, ring the bell and call everyone back together.** Tell them to find their travel partner, and spend time reflecting on the "milestone" exercise. Go over your collage and point out your milestones. Share with them any thoughts you may have had during your reflection time. You might do this by reflecting on one of the questions you used in your journals. Share at the depth that you feel comfortable. Again, you may leave this area and go for a walk, etc. Please return back here when you hear the bell.
 - **Ring the bell about 5 minutes before lunchtime.** When everyone gathers for lunch tell them that they will be eating with their Travel Groups. They may choose to discuss the morning or not. There will be about an hour for lunch. Say also the following: "Some of the things we have done or discussed today may have stirred up memories or thoughts which are unsettling to you. We have Chaplains/Pastors with us today and you are encouraged to visit with them. Or if you aren't sure whether it is appropriate here, you can make an appointment with one of them to follow up."

1200-1300 Lunch

(As they come back together you might play music or choruses.)

1300-1500 The Terrain (God's Voice)

- **Leader introduction suggestion:** "We have looked at our stories and journeys. We have recognized that our lives have not been haphazard; we are on a path. We spent time connecting the milestones of our lives and recognizing that God has been with us on this journey. We have not been alone. It is obvious that God is leading us. Sometimes we follow, sometimes we detour, but He is always present. Not only is it evident that God has been with us, it is true also that we have been equipped by God. Because God has made each of us, we have developed skills and talents as we journeyed. God has created us with various gifts. We are not an accident."
- **Activity:** Purpose of this module is to recognize self-worth and giftedness. And begin to recognize God's Voice. Say, "We are going to look more closely at what those divine endowments might be. We are going to do this with a special Gifts

Inventory. Please spread out to a place at one of the tables where you can write and I will give you the inventory.”

(Administer inventory of your choice. After the inventory either grade it or have it self-graded. Give the individuals time to look it over. This should take about 20 minutes all together.)

- **Call the group back to your attention.** Ask them to open their collages and with their magic-markers, write somewhere on the face of the collage, the gifts God has given to them. As they finish ask them to gather again in their traveling groups. Ask them to identify the following:
 1. “What did I discover from the inventory?”
 2. “Did I feel any affirmations of my talents or gifts?”
 3. “Was I surprised at learning that I’m more gifted in an area than I previously believed?”

(Give them about 20 minutes to discuss the inventories.)

- **Then say, “The next part of our time together is again an individual exercise.** We have identified through this gifts’ instrument, gifts that we have received from God. Let’s now look at some of our other skills and talents. I would like you to go to the table with construction paper on it, and take some of the squares, what ever color you want, and then by tearing these squares, please make symbols of some of the skills that you recognize are yours. This could be ability to work with your hands, computers, speaking, cooking, etc. Whatever skills you have acquired through your life journey. You will have about 10 minutes. Please add these symbols to the face of your collage with the glue sticks.”
- **Let individuals finish their collages.** Then ask them to quietly open their journals and respond to the following questions:
 1. “How has God been present in your life/journey?”
 2. “What does "God's voice" sound like? Can I hear God's voice?”
 3. “How do I clear the "noise" so that I can hear?”
 4. Read John 21:15-25. This scripture is especially good for adults who may have “rejected” Christ in their lives many times. It gives them a chance to see that they are forgiven and still called and cal still be used. Questions associated with the scripture:
 - a. Why do you think Jesus asked Peter the same question 3 times?
 - b. Have you ever felt so bad about something you did that even though you were told you were forgiven that you had to be told more than once?
 - c. Peter messed up but Jesus still entrusted him with His mission. What does that say to you about how God can use you?

- **Say, “You have the remainder of this time to reflect on the scripture, your gifts, God’s voice, and how all of that fits together.** You may stay here or go outside, but don’t go far, you have 25 minutes.”

**(This section would be expanded in a longer retreat to allow more time on God’s voice and learning to discern His voice.
This is the deepest, most intense part of the retreat.)**

1500-1515 Break (Ring to Signal a Break)

1515-1600 Module 4: "The Destination" (Affirmation)

- **“We have spent the day moving from being alone, to talking with our Travel Partner, to sharing with our Travel Group.** This is a part of God’s design. God did not create us to journey alone. Even when we are on our own, we are not alone. God sent the Holy Spirit to be with us. He also created us for Community. We call this Community, “The Church.” In fact, the scriptures tell us that God gave us our gifts, which are to be used to build the Church. It is in the Community of Believers that our gifts are affirmed. It is the Community or Church that affirms our gifts. It is the Church that says, “Yes, that was God’s voice you heard, listen to it. We are going to spend time now in our Travel Groups. Please move to your groups and form a circle of chairs without tables.”
- **Activity:** Give each small group time to reach closure and to affirm each other. *(Give each person a paper with the words they will say.)* One at a time have each individual sit facing the other three members of his/her travel group. The individual says to the group holding up the collage s/he has made: “This is my story, here are my gifts and talents, I believe God is revealing His plan for my life. Please pray that I will hear and follow His voice.” The group affirms this statement by saying “God loves you, (name) and has been leading you all of your Life. He is calling you and beckoning you. He has given you divine gifts and He has given you a purpose only you can fulfill. (Group places their hands on the receiver.) We pray now that your heart, mind, and life will be open to His love, His Leading, and His Purpose. Amen”
- **Immediately, quietly move to worship area.** The purpose of this service is to receive the affirmation from Christ that He is present in us, that He has gifted us and that we are never alone when gathered together into the Body of Christ, the Church.

1600-1645 Worship Service: An Affirmation of God’s Presence With Us

- **Suggestions for a short closing worship might include some of the following:**

1. Opportunity for retreatants to lay their collages before the altar
2. God's blessing and commission
3. Ratifying the Covenant / Claiming our Baptismal Vows
4. Servant hood (Foot washing)

Consider the Call
***Introduction and Planning Guide for a
Couples Discernment Retreat:***

“Traveling Together Toward God’s Calling”

**“ Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you.
Were you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay.
Your people will be my people and your God will be my God.”
Ruth 1:16**

Concept: A time of structured reflection and interaction which invites and assists engaged and married couples to journey toward a deeper awareness of God’s call upon themselves as a couple. While not a marriage enrichment retreat per se with its emphasis on skills training (communication, conflict resolution, intimacy building, etc), a vocations discernment retreat recognizes that building a better marital covenant and relationship is a key focus of God’s calling. Vocation as lifestyle is a helpful framework for maximizing the benefits of this retreat experience. (Cf. Marie Theresa Coombs, Hermit and Francis Kelly Nemeck, OMI, *Called By God, A Theology of Vocation and Lifelong Commitment*, Collegeville, MI: The Liturgical Press, 1992.) Coombs and Nemeck point out that “a vocational lifestyle involves a fundamental way of becoming our true selves and of relating to others. It is an all embracing, all-penetrating mode of living, or thinking about ourselves and interacting with other.” (p.75) Therefore, this retreat must balance both an emphasis on the individual journey and on the life-cycle journey of the couple. The modules that facilitate the Journey must include activities, didactics, inspirational resources and exercises that enhance each one’s self-awareness as uniquely called to be God’s own child as well as strengthening the covenant bond of marriage.

Time: 8 hours (9:00 – 5:00)

Number of Participants: 12-16 Couples. I recommend that this group allow for couples with various degrees of “history together” to participate (i.e. engaged, married, remarried.) Even though the primary focus is on individual couples, this will provide a larger community of travelers to model and support the least experienced and those starting over. Pastoral assessment can determine which couples are best able to negotiate the potentially intense aspects of the retreat. We do not recommend that dysfunctional or conflicted couples be permitted to attend this retreat.

Location: Choose a site that allows for large group assembly and privacy for couple interaction throughout the day. A cloistered locale that bounds the experience and protects from distractions is best.

Format:

Mission

0900-0945 Ice Breaker and Introduction: 45 minutes

- **Icebreaker: “How Ya’ Doin’, Neighbor?”** Form clusters of 4 couples each and Build a Barbeque Bash. Under the guise of a neighborhood have each couple bring a side dish that best depicts how they see themselves in the great scheme of life (assume the main course has already been furnished by The Host.) This exercise should let them know that they travel with other couples throughout the day and that diversity is God’s blessing. This begins the discovery and reflection process that lies ahead.
- **Introduction:**
 1. The theme of the day and the concept of journey into discernment.
(Written Schedule/Brochure/TBD)
 2. A Simple orientation to the Family Life Cycle that allows couples to determine their location on the landscape of life. (Simple Handout/TBD)
 3. Devotional Reading and Silent Meditation of Psalm 90:12 *“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom”* (Suggested questions/TBD)
 - a. “How do I “number my days?”
 - b. “How do I know I have gained a “heart of wisdom?”
 - c. “What does God bring to my/our discernment task?”
 - d. “Does my partner know my heart?”
 4. Suggested Prayer for Wisdom and Discernment (In Unison)

“Merciful Father, in our journey today we will need your caring guidance. Help us see in three dimensions: within ourselves, into one another, and toward You. May we discover a way to see our life together from Your vantage point and be open to the new possibilities for our marriage and the use of your precious gifts. Let us listen to Your voice, the heart of our partner and the still small voice of our own experiences. Amen.”

0945-1000 Break: 15 minutes

Map (Joshua 24: 14-27)

1000-1130 Story: 90 minutes

- **Didactic:** Present the use of a genogram as a way of telling our story. Provide a one-page handout on simple symbols and structure of genograms. (45 minutes)

(Suggested Resource: VCR Tape – “Career Directions, Understanding What Shapes Your Future” by Dr. Leslie Parrott)

- **Activity:** Have the couple draw a genogram indicating at least three (3) generations of their history together. Demographic information should include any significant “God-events” in the life of family members as well as the vocational status of key members of the family. They should take note of any influences or family dynamics that have shaped the vocational identification process of the family system. Encourage couples to discuss any significant insights revealed and how various factors have shaped their respective sense of calling. (45 minutes)

1130-1145 Break: 15 minutes

Compass

(Acts 18:18-28; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4: 1-16; Romans 12: 1-8)

1145-1300 Connections: 90 minutes

- **Didactic:** Present a brief overview of Spiritual Gifts with an emphasis on how gifts are an expression of our motivations for ministry (service) in our own dyadic relationships, amongst God’s people (the Body of Christ) and in the world. Explore what it means to have a gift together as a couple. (45 minutes)
- **Activity:** Have couples conduct a Spiritual Gifts Inventory and discuss their discoveries and perspectives. Ask them to affirm the gifts and insights of one another. Encourage them to “dream out loud” with one another about how God may use their gifts individually and collectively in the near and distant future. (45 minutes)

(Suggested spiritual gift inventory resources can be found at:

**<http://rockhay.tripod.com/manygifts> or
www.northpark.edu/sem/admiss/spirgiftbiblio.html)**

1300-1400 Lunch: 60 minutes. Couples sit with at least two couples that were not part of the Ice Breaker.

Terrain

(Psalms 46; Hebrews 11; John 21: 15-19)

1400-1530 God's Voice: 90 minutes

- **Didactic:** Provide a brief presentation on the value of journaling as a way to provide clarity and “clear out the noise” of life. Include some guidelines for how to journal and use it for perspective. Demonstrate how journaling may be used to

reflect on Scripture, the events of the day, an anticipated decision, etc. (30 minutes)

- **Activity:** Provide time for couples to write an initial individual journal entry. Guide them to address the things, which make it difficult for them to hear God's voice. Suggest that they consider addressing the theme of self-esteem and consider the impact of self-esteem on their sense of God's leading toward a place of service amongst God's people and in the world. Encourage couples to cross-pollinate their entries voluntarily by sharing the material without critique. (60 minutes)

1530-1600 Break: 30 minutes

**Destination
(John 17; Psalms 133)**

1600-1700 Affirmation: 60 minutes

- **Worship Service:** This should be a celebration of the day and God's speaking to the couples and the community. It should be a time for confirming and affirming one another in the context of being a couple as well as in the greater sense of the community. Testimony time may offer a chance to speak forth discernment to other couples and solicit the support of the greater community. From your target audience analysis, determine the denominational traditions of your retreatants. You may need to provide for both Catholic and Protestant worship in order to accommodate sacramental needs.
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Consider the Call
Couples Discernment Retreat Models

One-Day Retreat

Ice Breaker and Small Group Designation	30 minutes	
Introduction of the Theme	15 minutes	
Module 1 (Story)	90 minutes	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	15 minutes	
Module 2 (Connections)	90 minutes	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Lunch	1 hour	
Module 3 (God's Voice)	1 hour, 45 minutes	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	15 minutes	
Module 4 (Affirmation)	1 hour	Set-up Individual Couple Community

Version 1 (Mid-day to Mid-day) Overnight Retreat

1300		
Ice Breakers and And Small Group Formation	1 hour	
Introduction	30 minutes	
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20-30 minutes	
Dinner	1 hour	
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20 minutes	
Evening Group Prayer	30 minutes	
2300	Lights out and hopefully sleep	
	Saturday	
0700	Morning hygiene	
0800	Breakfast	
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes	
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Brunch and Recreation	1 hour	
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours	Set-up Individual Couple Community
Closing Group Prayer		

Version 2 (Friday-Saturday) Overnight Retreat

Friday

1930		
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	90 minutes	
Food and Fellowship	1 hour	
Evening Group Prayer	1 hour	
2300		Lights out and the illusion of sleep

Saturday

0700	Morning hygiene	
0800	Breakfast	
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes	
Module 1 (Story)	90 minutes	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20-30 minutes	
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours	
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20-30 minutes	
Module 4 (Affirmation)	90 minutes	Set-up Individual Couple Community
Community Meal/Prayer	1 hour	

Version 3 (Saturday-Sunday) Overnight Retreat

Saturday

0900		
Ice Breaker and Small Group Formation	90 minutes	
Break	20-30 minutes	
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Lunch and Recreation	2 hours	
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20-30 minutes	
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Dinner	1 hour	
Personal Reflection Time	1 hour	
Evening Group Prayer	1 hour	
2300	Lights out and drift off to sleep	

Sunday

0700	Personal hygiene	
0800	Breakfast	
Module 4 (Affirmation)	2 hours	Set-up Individual Couple Community
Community Meal/Prayer	2 hours	

Weekend Retreat

Friday

1930		
Ice Breakers and Small Group Formation	60 minutes	
Introduction	30 minutes	
Food and Fellowship	1 hour	
Evening Group Prayer	30 minutes	
2300	Lights out and slip into quiet slumber	

Saturday

0700	Personal hygiene	
0800	Breakfast	
Morning Group Prayer	30 minutes	
Module 1 (Story)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Break	20-30 minutes	
Module 2 (Connections)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Lunch and Recreation	90 minutes	
Module 3 (God's Voice)	2 hours	Set-up Individual work Couple sharing
Personal Spiritual Reflection	2 hours	
Dinner	1 hour	
Food and Fellowship	1 hour	
Evening Group Prayer	1 hour	

2300 Lights out and sweet repose

Sunday

0700 Personal hygiene

0800 Breakfast

Morning Group Worship 1 hour

Module 4 (Affirmation) 90 minutes Set-up
Individual
Couple
Community

Closing Brunch 90 minutes

Consider the Call
Discernment Retreat Resource Listing

TITLE	FORMAT	MODULE 1	MODULE 2	MODULE 3	MODULE 4
YOUTH					
<u>Catholic Youth Bible.</u> St. Mary's Press (<i>Provides a scriptural reading plan around 14 Old and New Testament passages entitled "Called By God"</i>)	Book		X	X	X
<u>Called to Serve: Your Christian Vocation.</u> Kathleen Glauisch, S.N.D. Ave Maria Press, 2001.	Book		X	X	
<u>Prayer Services for Teens.</u> Silver Burdett and Ginn, 2001.	CD Rom		X	X	
<u>Life in the Spirit Seminars Team Manuals, Catholic Edition,</u> part II, Seminar 4, "Receiving God's Gifts." Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Books.	Book			X	X
<u>Creating a Christian Lifestyle.</u> Carl Koch. St. Mary's Press, 2001.	Book		X	X	
<u>Guided Meditations for Youth on Personnel Themes.</u> Jane E. Arsenault. Ave Maria Press, 2001.	Audio Cassette				
<u>Occupations.</u> Michael O'Neill McGrath. Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Resources, 2001.	Book			X	X
<u>Discipleship in the Catholic Tradition: Commitments, Growing in Catholic Lifestyles.</u> Villa Maria, PA, Center for Learning, 2001.	Book			X	X
<u>Youth to Youth Ministry.</u> Villa Maria, PA: Center for Learning, 2001.	Book			X	X
<u>Called by God – a Study of Vocation and Life Long Ministry.</u> Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2000.	Book			X	
<u>The Call of the Disciple: The Bible on Following Christ.</u> Georg Fisher and Martin Hasitchka. St. Louis, MO: Paulist Press, 2000.	Book	X	X		

<u>Discerning Disciples: Listening to God's Voice in Christian Initiation.</u> Donna Steffen, S.C. St. Louis, MO: Paulist Press, 2001.	Book			X	X
<u>When Did We See You: 60 Creative Activities to Help Fourth to Eighth Graders Recognize Jesus.</u> Phyllis Vos Wezeman & Colleen Alsburg Wiessner. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press. <i>(Excellent use of Matthew 26 to engage discerners in a ministry project. Could be very effectively used at a weekend retreat. Easily adaptable for older participants.)</i>	Book				
<u>What Can I Be? Exercises in Prayer, Poetry, and Role-playing to Help Kids Grow in Christ.</u> John A. Flanagan. Ligouri, MO: Ligouri Press.	Book				X
<u>Prayers Before An Awesome God: The Psalms for Teenagers.</u> David Haas. Winona, MN: St. Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications.	Book				X
<u>Spirit Wings: A Spirit-filled Devotional for Youth.</u> Jim Burns, Servant Publishers, Ann Arbor, MI.	Book				X
<u>Follow the Yellow Brick Road – a Spiritual Journey.</u> William Bausch. Twenty-Third Publications.	Book		X	X	X
<u>So What Am I Gonna Do with My Life?</u> Diane Lindsey Reeves. Youth Specialties.	Book		X	X	X
<u>YouthWorks.</u> Center for Ministry Development, PO Box 699, Naugatuck, CT 06770.	Resource Binders		X	X	X
<u>Confirming Disciples, Program #1, "God's Loving Call."</u> Center for Ministry Development, PO Box 699, Naugatuck, CT 06770.	Resource Binders				X
<u>Youth Specialties.</u> 1224 Greenfield Dr., El Cajon, CA.	Series		X	X	X
<u>Group Retreat Book</u>	Book		X	X	X
<u>"Simon Birch"</u>	Video				
<u>"Oh, God"</u>	Video				

www.Cmdnet.org	Web Page								
www.Tiberriver.com	Web Page								
www.Northpark.edu	Web Page								
www.Schreiberumc.org	Web Page								
www.Zondervan.com	Web Page								
www.Family.org	Web Page								
www.lifeteen.org	Web Page								
YOUNG ADULT/ADULT									
Young Adult Works , Binder #4: "Prayer and Retreats." Center for Ministry Development, PO Box 699, Naugatuck, CT 06770.	Resource Biners							X	
Leadership for Life: Discovering Your Gifts for Christian Leadership. Center for Ministry Development, PO Box 699, Naugatuck, CT 06770.	Resource Biners							X	
People of God at Prayer –18 Services in the Spirit of Vatican II. Bill Huebsch. Twenty-Third Publications.	Book							X	X
Embodying the God We Proclaim-“Ministering as Jesus Did.” Monica Brown. Resource Publications.	Book						X	X	X
Jesus of the Gospels. Arthur E. Zannoni. St. Anthony Messenger Press	Book						X	X	X
Follow the Yellow Brick Road – a Spiritual Journey. William Bausch. Twenty-Third Publications.	Book					X	X	X	X
The Great Themes of the Scriptures - Old Testament, The Great Themes of the Scriptures - New Testament. Richard Rohr and Joseph Martos. St. Anthony Messenger Press (<i>Themes can be used in all modules for illustrations and worship</i>)	Book					X	X	X	X

<p>“As I have Done For You: A Pastoral Letter on Ministry” by Cardinal Roger Mahony and the Priests.” Liturgy Training Publications: The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, 2000.</p>	Article	X	
<p><u>Meditations for Ministers.</u> Mark G. Boyer. ACTA Publications.</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>God Still Calls: Vocation Stories of Real Seminarians.</u> Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Walsh. E.T. Nedder Publishing.</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>God Loves an Unmade Bed – Spirituality for the Imperfect.</u> Donald C. Fisher & Fr. Tom Allender, S.J. FM Publishers, PO Box 40168, Phoenix, AZ 85067. (<i>Videos and cassettes available</i>).</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>Finding My Way Home – Pathways to Life and Spirit.</u> Henri Nouwen. Crossroads Publishers.</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>Building Self-Esteem: The Christian Dimension.</u> Anselm Gruen. Crossroads Publishers</p>	Book	X	
<p><u>To Everything a Season – a Spirituality of Time.</u> Bonnie Thurston. Crossroads Publishers</p>		X	X
<p><u>Out of the Depths – The Story of Ludmila Javarona, Roman Catholic Priest.</u> Mariam Therese Winter. Crossroads Publishers (<i>True story of a woman ordained in the Roman Catholic underground church in Czechoslovakia, 1970-1990</i>)</p>	Book		
<p><u>The Emerging Heart.</u> Wilkie Au. Paulist Press</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>God First Loved Us.</u> Anthony F. Campbell, S.J. Paulist Press.</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>The Conversion Experience – A Reflection Process for RCIA Participants and Others.</u> Donald Gelpi, S.J. Paulist Press (<i>A supplemental resource that can be used with each module</i>).</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>Commitment: Key to Christian Maturity.</u> Susan Muto and Adrian von Kaam. Paulist Press (<i>See next resource</i>).</p>	Book	X	X
<p><u>Commitment Workbook and Guide.</u> Susan Muto and Adrian von Kaam.</p>	Book	X	X

Paulist Press (Can be used with book listed above).								
What Does God Want? Michael Scanlon, T.O.R. with James Manney. Our Sunday Visitor.	Book						X	
Praying Our Experiences – 20th Anniversary Expanded Edition. Joseph F. Schmidt. St. Mary's Press								X
Fun Friend-Making Activities for Adult Groups. Karen Dockery. Group Publishing (<i>Ice Breaker Activities</i>).	Book							
Discovering God's Will for Your Life. Apply-It-To-Life Series. Group Publishing.	Book		X				X	
Freedom: Seeing Yourself as God Sees You. Apply-It-To-Life Series. Group Publishing.	Book		X				X	
Blessing Prayers – for Personal Need and Communal Celebrations. George B. Wilson, S.J. Treehaus Communications, Inc. (<i>A supplemental resource for all modules</i>).	Book		X				X	X
Virtual Faith: The Irreverent Spiritual Quest of Generation X. Tom Beaudoin. San Francisco: Jossey Bass Publishers, 1998.	Book		X				X	X
I'm Outta Here: Facing Tough Choices After High School. Len Woods. Baker Books.	Book		X				X	
Personhood: Growing in Self-Awareness. Marie C. Bell, Michelle T. Cana, and M. Emilie Palladino, SND. Center for Learning Publications.	Book		X				X	
Retreat Models. Center for Learning Publications.	Book		X				X	X
Spirit Wings. Jim Burns. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications.	Book		X				X	
Where There Are No Secrets. There Are No Lies. Rebecca St. James.	Video		X				X	
Faith: The Search for God Series. 1 & 2. John Powell. Argus Press.	Video		X				X	X

<u>Theology on Tap: An Introduction to God, Jesus, Church, and Moral Living.</u> ACTA, The foundation for Adult Catechetical Teaching Aids.	Video			X	X
<u>Passion One-Day Life.</u> James M. Rink.	Video			X	X
<u>Arrington Life.</u> Gateway Films, Vision Video.	Video			X	X
<u>Edge TV Series.</u> NAVPRESS.	Video			X	X
<u>Shockwave Video Series.</u> Group Publishing.	Video			X	X
<u>Creative Weekends.</u> Paul Peterson.	Book		X	X	X
<u>Developing Faith in Young Adults.</u> Robert T. Gribbon.	Book			X	X
<u>The Idea Catalog for Single Adult Ministry.</u> Jerry Jones. NAVPRESS, 1991.	Book		X	X	X
<u>The Lonely Pew: Creating Community in the Local Church.</u> Douglas L. Fagerstrom and James W. Carlson. Baker Book House, 1993.	Book			X	X
<u>Saturday Night, Sunday Morning.</u> Nicholas B. Christoff. Harper & Row, 1978.	Book				X
<u>Single Adults: Resource and Recipients for Revival.</u> Dan R. Crawford. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1985.	Book				X
<u>Singles at the Crossroad.</u> Albert Y. Hsu. InterVarsity Press, 1997.	Book		X	X	X
<u>www.singlesmall.com</u>	Web Page		X	X	X
<u>www.ccci.org</u>	Web Page		X	X	X
<u>www.Godspeaks.net/main.html</u>	Web Page				X
<u>Family Works.</u> Center for Ministry Development, PO Box 699, Naugatuck, CT 06770.	Resource Binders		X	X	X

The Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life. Bruce H. Wilkinson. Portland: Multnomah Publishers Inc., 2000.	Book			X	X
Companions for Your Spiritual Journey. Mark Harris. InterVarsity Press, 2001.	Book	X		X	X
Fire in the Soul: A Prayer Book for the Later Years. Richard L. Morgan. Nashville: The Upper Room, 2001.	Book	X		X	X
"Weavings: A Journal on the Spiritual Life", The Upper Room.	Periodical	X		X	X
"Readings and Sites for the Spiritual Journey" www.2bc.edu/~anderso/sr/sr.html	Web Page	X		X	X
www.sowingseedsofffaith.com (Especially good for singles ministry)	Web Page				
www.inflameresources.com (Especially good for young adults.)	Web Page				
www.mayfair.org/ministries/singles (Mayfair Church of Christ, Singles Ministry)	Web Page				
www.horeb.pcusa.org/olderadults/reslist.htm ; (Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Resource List for Older Adult Ministries)	Web Page				
"Discerning God's Voice: Discerning God's Voice Amidst the (3) Voices that Christians Hear" by Drew Segawa. (www.atthecross.com/articles/discerninggodsvoice.shtml)	Web Page Article				X
"Discerning God's Will" from Kirkwood Road Christian Church. (www.krcconline.org/ticket_topical_godswill.asp)	Web Page Article		X		X
"Discerning a Vocation" St. John of God Brothers: Vocations. (Ireland) (www.brothers-vocations.ie/nu/docs/f_discrn.htm)	Web Page Article		X		X
Listening to God: Experience a Deeper Relationship with God by Learning to Hear His Voice. Charles Stanley. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, Inc. 1996.	Book				X

How to Listen to God. Charles Stanley, In Touch Ministries	Book				X
"Discerning God's Dream For Us" www.ignaciana.org/vocations/discerning.htm	Web Page Article				X
"Hearing God's Voice" by Drew Segawa. www.atthecross.com/articles/hearinggodsvoice.shtml	Web Page Article				X
"Online and Offline tools for Discerning Spiritual Gifts" http://rockhay.tripod.com/manygifts/	Web Page Resources			X	
"Biography of spiritual Gift Resources." North Park Theological Seminary, http://www.northpark.edu/sem/admiss/spirgiftbiblio.html	Web Page Resources			X	
"Story of My Life", http://www.vocations.com/vocdirs/soml.html	Web Page Article		X		
"Vocation Discernment (For the Priesthood)", http://www.catholicdoors.com/news/discern.htm (Discernment Checklist)	Web Page Article			X	
"Schreiber UMC Spiritual Gifts Inventory", http://www.schreiberumc.org/opportunities/spiritualgiftsinv.htm	Web Page Article			X	
<u>Finding God's Will</u> , by J. I. Packer; Inverness Press, 2001.	Book				X
<u>Will of God as a Way of Life: The Finding and Following the Will of God</u> , Gerald L. Sittser. Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.	Book				X
<u>Reinventing Your Life with Grace</u> . Luci Swindoll, Thelma Wells, Marilyn Meberg and Patsy Clairmont http://www.womenoffaith.com/RTR/new/rtr2.htm	Books and Videos			X	
<u>Yearning to Know God's Will: A Workbook for Discerning God's Guidance for Your Life</u> . Danny Morris. Zondervan, http://www.zondervan.com/0310754917.htm	Workbook			X	
"How Can We Connect With God?" http://www.gospeaks.net/connectbody.html	Web Page Article				X

The Divine Intruder: When God Breaks Into Your Life. James R. Edwards, Jr. NavPress, 2000.	Book					X	
The Path Finder: Wisdom, Purpose, Transition, Decision, Pattern. Larry Burkett; www.crown.org	Book	X			X		
Listen to God's Whispers. Lee Bee Teik, ReconRe, 1996.	Book					X	
Listening to God in Times of Choice. Gordon T. Smith. InterVarsity Press, 1997.	Book	X			X		
"Bibliography of Discernment/Seminary Resources" from North Park Theological Seminary, http://www.northpark.edu/sem/admiss/discernbiblio.html	Web Page Resources	X			X		X
Finding the Will of God in a Crazy, Mixed-Up World. Tim LaHaye; Zondervan Publishing House.	Book					X	
Finding God's Will for You. St. Francis De Sales. Sophia Institute Press, 1998.	Book					X	
"Career Direct" on CD-Rom- Occupational Version, www.crown.org	CD-Rom				X		
"How Can I Know God's Will" by John Coblenz from the newsletter of Deeper Life Ministries; www.anabaptists.org/places/dlm/dlm-201.html	Web Page Article					X	
The Serendipity Resource Library for Small Groups, Serendipity House (<i>Dozens of ice-breakers and interactive exercises.</i>)	Book Set						
www.godleading.com (<i>Multiple resources</i>)	Web Page	X				X	X
www.serraus.org/Resources/Voc_Mat.htm (<i>Multiple Resources</i>)	Web Page	X			X	X	X
Spirituality Resources http://www.sa.uca.org.au/spirt/resources.htm	Web Page						
When God Speaks. Henry Blackaby, Blackaby Ministries (<i>Also has workbook and tape</i>).	Book					X	

Listening Hearts: Discerning God's Call in Community. Gill Farhnam and Ward McLean. Listening Hearts Ministries, http://wesleysem.edu/M2K/footnotes/listeningHearts.htm	Book	X	X	X	X
Spiritual Gifts Inventory http://www.teamministry.com/cgi-bin/gifts.cgi	Book		X		
Connections. ELCA Distribution Service, http://www.elca.org/dm/midl/connect1.htm	Book	X	X		
"The Call Newsletter" , www.elca.org/dm/midl/thecall.htm	Periodical	X	X	X	X
Trumbauer Consulting , Minneapolis, MN, http://members.aol.com/trumbauer/	Consultant		X		
Sharing the Ministry: A Practical Guide for Transforming Volunteers into Ministers. Jean Morris Trumbauer. Augsburg Fortress Press, 1999.	Book		X		
Created and Called: Discovering Our Gifts for Abundant Living. Jean Morris Trumbauer. Augsburg Fortress Press, 1998.	Book		X		
"Retreat Outline on Vocation and Call" , www.godleading.com	Web Page Resource	X	X	X	X
Vocations Prayers , http://www.mpdinc.org/vocation_prayers.htm	Web Page Resource				X
Listening to the Voice of God. Roger Barrier. Nashville: Lifeway.	Book			X	
Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God. Henry Blackaby. Nashville: Lifeway, (Book, workbooks, and videos.)	Book, etc.			X	
Spiritual Gifts. Kent Millard. Nashville: Lifeway Publishing.	Book		X	X	
Living in God's Embrace: The Practice of Spiritual Intimacy. Michael Fonseca. Ave Maria Press	Book			X	
Transforming Parish Life: A Spirituality of Parish Leadership for the Twenty-first Century. Carol Gura. The Center for Learning.	Book	X	X	X	X

<u>Transforming Parish Life: Reclaiming a Baptismal Mentality</u> , Book 2 of a Series. Carol Gura. The Center for Learning (Chapter 3, Handout 16, "My Faith Journey")	Book				X		
<u>Prayer Services for Parish Meetings</u> . Debra Hintz. Twenty-third Publications	Book						X
<u>Gathering Prayers</u> . Debra Hintz. Twenty-third Publications	Book						X
<u>God's Will, God's Best for Your Life</u> . Josh McDowell & Kevin Johnson; CBD	Book		X		X		X
<u>Unleashing Your Calling</u> . David C. Cook	Book		X		X		X
<u>The Will of God: A Workbook</u> . Leslie Weatherhead. Nashville: Abingdon Press/Cokesbury.	Book		X		X		X
<u>A Pastor's Challenge</u> . George A. Kelly. Our Sunday Visitor.	Book					X	
<u>Foundations in Faith Precatechumenate Manual</u> , RCL (<i>Ways to assist people tell their stories.</i>)	Book		X				
<u>Foundations in Faith, Resource Book Purification and Enlightenment Year A, B, C.</u> (<i>Discerning God's will retreat sessions.</i>)	Book					X	X
<u>Times of Change, Times of Challenge Series, "When You have a Decision to Make."</u> Ron Del Bene with Mary and Herb Montgomery. Nashville: The Upper Room.	Booklet		X		X		X
<u>Stories to Invite Faith-sharing: Experiencing the Lord Through the Seasons.</u> Mary McEntee McGill. Resource Publications, Inc.	Book		X				
<u>Deepdown Spirituality: Seasonal Stories That Invite Faith-Sharing.</u> Joseph J. Juknialis. Resource Publications, Inc.	Book		X				
<u>Network: Understanding God's Design for You in the Church.</u> Bruce Bugbee, Don Cousins, and Bill Hybels. Zondervan Publishing House.	Book, etc.						