

CONFIRMATION SESSION: MEANING

CONTENT OVERVIEW

At a young age, children are asked the question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Usually, they respond with answers like, “I want to be a teacher” or “I want to be a doctor.” Some opt for a more creative response, such as, “I want to be an astronaut” or “I want to be a racecar driver.” As they grow up, this question becomes a bit more real, especially as they enter high school. During their junior year of high school, teens are often expected to know exactly what they want to do with their lives, having a plan for how they will achieve their goals perfectly laid out. As seniors graduate high school, they are perpetually asked, “What are you going to do now?” as if an 18-year-old will have it all perfectly figured out.

While the question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” generally has more to do with a career, each of us has a vocation. A vocation is simply a calling we have to live God’s will for our lives. There are two type of vocation, universal and particular. Our universal vocation is our call to holiness. Through this vocation, we seek God, know Him, and love Him. A good way to see how well we are fulfilling our universal vocation is to ask ourselves how we are treating others each day.

Our particular vocation is designed specifically for us based on our gifts and talents. This vocation leads to marriage, Holy Orders, or consecrated life. Matrimony is a sacrament that joins one man and one woman in the promise that they will be faithful to one another, open to life, and committed to living a life for Christ. Holy Orders is a vocation by which the mission that was entrusted by Christ to His apostles continues to be exercised through deacons, priests, and bishops. Consecrated life is a permanent state of life recognized by the Church. One enters this life freely, and it is characterized by the profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

While it takes time to discern our particular vocation, we can all participate in our universal vocation right now. We have been given the ability to spread the Gospel message, bringing goodness and light to a world that is in need. But it is up to us to say “yes” to this call.

CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. How do we discern our particular vocation?
2. How does prayer aid us in the discernment process?
3. How do you currently live out your universal call to holiness? How can we live out this call as a family?