

## **Our Vocation is Our Identity**

I remember as a teenager experimenting with my identity. I thought by joining certain social groups or trying different fashion trends I would eventually discover what my identity was. Yet, no matter what group I joined or the clothes I wore I never truly discovered who I was as a person. Entering into adulthood I still struggled trying to find out who I was. I tried different careers, joined various social causes, changed my college major numerous times and I still was challenged with the lingering question of who I am and what should I do with my life. Lucky for us, we already have an identity embedded within ourselves, it is called a vocation. A vocation is an internal personal calling that directs us toward our purpose in life. The constitution of the Missionaries of Our Lady of LaSalette defines our vocation as “a gift from God, our Father, who chose us and calls us to full maturity in Christ for the holiness of his body, the Church.” Our vocation is a gift from God because He has called and chosen us to be a part of His body the Church. The reason why I never found my identity in social groups or fashion trends is because these things are external and a vocation is internal. To truly understand who we are as a person we must look within ourselves to see what brings us passion in our lives. Yes, I agree it is easier to change our clothes and our friends in order to discover who we are, but inside each of us holds the key to our true identity and that is our vocation. I encourage you to enter into the journey of discerning your vocation; you might be surprised at what you may find. You could be called to the vocation of priesthood, religious, married, or single life, but if you never take the steps in discerning your personal call to a vocation you could end up walking in circles your entire life. I spent many years trying different ways trying to figure out who I was and what I am supposed to do with my life. Once I realized I was called to a particular vocation I was able to find my identity and purpose in life. If you are having trouble finding what vocation you are called to live, then talk with a spiritual director or a person you have confidence in to help you in your discernment process. Remember God calls and we respond. How are you going to answer the call God has placed within you to live out your vocation in life?

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