

SESSION 4

JOB, CAREER, MAKING A DIFFERENCE

1) **Brief check-in** at the beginning of the meeting – focused on these questions:

Focus Question:

- a) *Do you have any thoughts or reflections related to the discussion we had in our last session on the topic of nurturing a spiritual practice to enhance our vocational journey?*
- b) *The 1975 Jesuit General Congregation 32 (GC 32) coined the formula “the service of faith and the promotion of justice.” What does the word “justice” mean to you? How does it compare and contrast with “charity”?*

2) **Quiet reflection** – Meditative Reading

Prayer of Oscar Romero

It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is the Lord’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that should be said, No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection, no pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church’s mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

That is what we are about. We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing

that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.

This enables us to do something and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

Readings:

John Neafsey, “Discernment, the Inner Compass of the Heart,” *A Sacred Voice is Calling: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience*, 2006

Paul Locatelli, S.J. “A Justice of Faith: Kindling Fires at the Frontiers,” *explore Journal* Fall 2008, Vol 12, No. 1 pp. 8-11

3) **Discussion and sharing** – issues or thoughts that the readings stimulated in you or other items you want to talk about. Below is a series of quotes and focus questions taken from the readings for the day which may serve as reminders. Review these quotes and focus questions and respond only to those which strike a cord in you. Open sharing. (60 Min)

A) **John Neafsey** - “Discernment, the Inner Compass of the Heart,” - In his article on discernment, John Neafsey points out that “Socially responsible discernment includes social analysis, which has to do with a critical or discerning consciousness about the world in which we live. Social analysis does not require advanced education or specialized knowledge in political science or sociology or liberation theology. According to Dan Hartnett, it is actually more about the ‘practical wisdom’ of regular people who have taken the trouble to educate themselves about their social world. This involves a more ordinary human exercise of critical reflection ‘whereby the educated adult remains critically attuned to what is happening in the world in order to think, judge, and act responsibly.’”

Focus Question: *What has your ‘practical wisdom’ taught you about the social world in which we live related to the poor and marginalized persons in our society? What obligations do we have as Catholics to bring about change to help better their lives?*

B) **Paul Locatelli, S.J.** - “A Justice of Faith: Kindling Fires at the Frontiers,” – Father Locatelli in this article borrows a quote from one of the documents of the Jesuit General Congregation 35:

“The complexity of the problems we face and the richness of the opportunities offered demand that we build bridges between rich and poor, establishing advocacy links of mutual support between those who hold political power and those who find it difficult to voice their interests. Our intellectual apostolate provides an inestimable help in constructing these bridges, offering us new ways of understanding in dept the mechanisms and links among our present problems.”

Focus Question: *Can you imagine in what ways our Santa Clara University administration, faculty, staff and students could make this dream a reality?*