



Getting the best
out of life

....Key to the Door of Life



Why is it important to be aware of our Vocation?

- ◆ Basic Christian belief
- ◆ Vocation is "a calling", much more than something we "do".
- ◆ Herbert Alphonso S.J. describes "The Personal Vocation" of each of us as: "this truest and deepest 'self', this God-given uniqueness".
- ◆ The vocation is the providential thought of the Creator for each created person

Personal Vocation:

"this truest and deepest self"

- ◆ We *need* to be aware of our truest self, our unique self, if we are to be fully alive.
- ◆ The clearer I am about my personal vocation, the clearer I will be about how I can most fully live this calling
- ◆ Therefore we try to help everyone to realise their unique calling






Session idea: "Called"

- ◆ Play 'pass the whisper'.
- ◆ Frodo's call to carry the ring. How do we live our call is part of who we are.
- ◆ We won't have a wizard appearing to summon us to follow our calling, but God will make our call clear to us if we ask.

The Road Not Taken

Robert Frost



Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth.

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.



And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

What is *your* personal vocation?

- ◆ What is your unique self? Or, what is your "Name"?
- ◆ An example of this usage occurs in Ex. 3:13–22: Moses asks God what His "name" is. Moses is not asking "what should I call you;" rather, he is asking "who are you; what are you like; what have you done." That is clear from God's response. God replies that He is eternal, that He is the God of our ancestors, that He has seen our affliction and will redeem us from bondage.
- ◆ "The Naming of Cats" by T.S. Eliot gives an insight into the significance of "name".



"The Naming of Cats" by T.S. Eliot

The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter, it isn't just one of your holiday games;

You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter when I tell you a cat must have three different names.

First of all there's the name that the family use daily, Such as Peter, Augustus, Alonzo or James,

Such as Victor or Jonathan, George or Bill Bailey—

All of them sensible everyday names.

There are fancier names if you think they sound sweeter,

Some for the gentlemen, some for the dames;

Such as Plato, Admetus, Electra, Demeter –
but all of them sensible everyday names.





But I tell you a cat needs a name that's particular, a name that's peculiar and more dignified,

Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular? Or spread out his whiskers, or cherish his pride?

Of names of this type, I can give you a quorum,

Such as Munkustrap, Quaxo or Coricopat, such as Bombalurina or else Jellylorum – names that never belong to more than one cat.

But above and beyond there's still one name left over, and that is the name that you never will guess;

The name that no human research can discover – but the cat himself knows and will never confess.

When you notice a cat in profound meditation, the reason, I tell you, is always the same;

His mind is engaged in rapt contemplation

Of the thought, of the thought, of the thought of his name;

His ineffable, effable, effanineffable, deep and inscrutable singular NAME.



- ◆ You have three names too; a family name, a Christian name, and a "white-stone name".
- ◆ To those who win the victory I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give each of them a white stone, on which is written a new name that no one knows except the one who receives it.

(Rev. 2:17)



- ◆ Take a few minutes to contemplate your "white-stone name."

- ◆ Hold onto your white stone and if you are still unsure, pray in coming days for God to reveal to you something of your "Name", your unique self, your personal vocation.



Its all in a name



"Some Definite Service" *after John Henry Newman*

- ◆ God has created me to do some definite service;
- ◆ God has committed some work to me
- ◆ Which is not committed to another.
- ◆ I have my mission
- ◆ I may never know it in this life,
- ◆ But I shall be told it in the next.
- ◆ I have a part in this great work
- ◆ I am a link in the chain,
- ◆ A bond of connection between persons.
- ◆ God has not created me for naught.
- ◆ I shall do good, I shall do God's work;
- ◆ I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place,
- ◆ while not intending it, if I do but keep God's commandments
- ◆ and serve the Lord in my calling.
- ◆ Therefore I will trust my Lord.
- ◆ Whatever, wherever I am,
- ◆ can never be thrown away.
- ◆ I ask not to see
- ◆ I ask not to know
- ◆ I ask simply to be used.



Nelson Mandela

1994, Inaugural Speech

- ◆ "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
- ◆ Our deepest fear is that we are powerful, beyond measure.
- ◆ It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.
- ◆ We ask ourselves "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous"?
- ◆ Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God, your playing small doesn't serve the world.
- ◆ There is nothing enlightened about shrinking, so that other people won't feel insecure around you.
- ◆ We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.
- ◆ It is not just some of us, it's in everyone.
- ◆ As we let our own light shine, then we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.
- ◆ As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

