

Is God calling you: what is discernment?



I have always felt God's presence as *a-whispering-without-words*—like a breeze that beckons me to take a deeper look into myself.

Since there are no words to direct me, I must work from a different perspective, if I am to discover what God is trying to say. Fortunately, ways to explore God's calling have been created by our religious and monastic orders. Our stewardship committee wants to offer an opportunity for our parishioners to experience these processes. Religious terminology refers to this as discernment.

Taking the first steps of discernment is easy. All you need is 10 minutes a day. Discernment is exercising your soul. You'll need a private place and a willingness to settle down and concentrate on one question, which is:

How do I personally see God?

- As a savior who is ready and willing to help me out of those jams I find myself in?
- As a scorekeeper, counting sins along with favors?
- As an all loving infinite power that eternally watches over me?
- As a partner who wishes to help all of us, as we help God, create a better world?

Once you take a really deep and honest look at how you see God, a silent conversation begins within your soul. I found myself studying a sunset and suddenly feeling essential to God's plan. Phrases jumped out during the Liturgy of the Word, and suddenly I understood something brand new about an often-heard Bible verse.

Once these things began to happen, I realized what God

was whispering in my ear. God wanted me to be a full partner in all that He was creating around me: at my home, our church, our community, and the world. (Of course the very next thing I realized is that God wants all of us to join in this partnership. Everyone's help is needed to create the vision.)

The stewardship committee will be sponsoring workshops over the following year to help anyone interested in learning about what God is trying to whisper to them. So if you've felt this gentle breeze encircling your soul and you want to know what God has in store for you, please join us! Watch for announcements in upcoming *Forums*.

Kathy Barrett

Most of us have never seen a burning bush, or heard the crack of thunder on the mountain, but nonetheless, we sense that God is asking us to do something...

Looking to the future—upcoming events and possibilities

- Continue to create ways to deepen our parishioner's spiritual experiences
- Redesign the Church to include a handicap bathroom, a place for fussy children and their parents to continue their worship with us, and a more functional baptistery
- Continue to develop opportunities for all who worship with us, including: children, families, young adults, singles, divorced and separated, returning Catholics, non-Catholic partners, visitors from other countries, seniors, etc.
- Celebrate 50 years of Catholic education
- Replace the rest of our school's old windows
- Continue our preventative maintenance program for our facility