

Faith in 5 – Adults Vocations in the Catholic Church



1. God calls each of us to follow Him. His greatest desire is to have a relationship with us! We are called to believe in Christ and respond to Him in faith. Our adherence to the faith is the path to holiness.



We are also called to be part of God's plan, invited to live a vocation or state of life. Vocation is God's way of calling us to love others. It involves some degree of sacrifice to self in service to others. God asks each of us to consider responding to this call of love, where we can truly experience God's joy.

2. The Catholic Church recognizes 4 vocations:
 - a. Priesthood
 - b. Consecrated Life
 - c. Marriage
 - d. Single Life
3. **Priesthood** - A Catholic priest is a male ordained minister, who gives himself completely to the Church. Priests agree with the overall Church in faith and morals from Tradition, the Magisterium or the Pope's supreme authority (ex-cathedra). Priests cannot marry and commit to a life of prayer.

Priests have a great responsibility to lead their flock to holiness. They do this by proclaiming the Good News, teaching the Catholic faith, ministering the Sacraments, and leading the faith community in worship. Most priests will minister in a parish setting, while others may serve as chaplains in areas such as universities, hospitals, prisons, the armed forces and other industries. They must be comfortable with all facets of life and have the affectual and social maturity to deal with all kinds of people and needs.

4. **Consecrated Life** – In the consecrated life, a man or woman gives themselves completely to God, usually with the support of a religious community. It is a consecrated, single life. Each religious community outline different vows that they live and follow. Cloistered communities live away from the world and are in constant prayer and worship; other communities work in the world, ministering to the needy and poor. Some individuals choose to be hermits or consecrated virgins, living in solitude and devoting their life to God in quiet prayer.

Those who have made vows to religious life adhere to the ways of poverty, chastity, and obedience. In addition to serving their fellow brothers or sisters in their community and serving others through missions, they live their life as a sacrifice. They work to help save countless souls for the kingdom of God. Those in this vocation call others to join in their way of life.

5. **Marriage** – Marriage is also known as the ‘natural vocation’, where God has given to us the natural capacity to love another and procreate. The sacrament of marriage includes a vow of faithful love, where husbands and wives have a responsibility for and towards each other. (This includes a concerted effort to get each other to Heaven!) Married life as a vocation is designed to last a lifetime: “What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder”(Mark 10:9).

Husbands and wives are committed to helping their spouse grow to human and Christian maturity and seek to form a family. There is a responsibility to raise children in the Christian faith and values. There are many ways a married couple can serve in their church and parish ministries.

6. **Single Life** - Single men and women embrace the gift of celibacy while living alone, with a family or with others who are single. They are able to devote time and energy in service of others and may serve in their parish community or in the Church in a number of different ways. For many, remaining single is the true and right way to faithfully live one’s baptismal call.

In each vocation, the person lives a life of faith and prayer to continually grow in relationship with God. No vocation is better or less than any other. However, because God calls each of us to a particular vocation – whether marriage, priesthood, religious life or single life –the vocation that brings joy and happiness is one that will ‘fit’ you best on the road to sanctity.

We all have a universal call from God to holiness. Whatever job or charitable act we perform, God is pleased every time we do His will. In our genuine desire to seek Him, He will make Himself plainly known to us. God gives us the grace to do what is needed. If you are seeking a vocation, continue to pray and be open to the Will of God. When we are attuned to His Will, we will have peace.

If we are not able to discern a vocation or are prevented from doing so, does that mean we will not get to heaven? No, only that we may be missing out on additional blessings God has in store. Whatever is offered to God is repaid a hundredfold in this life and the next (Mark 10:29-30). When God begins a great work in you, He will see it to completion until the coming of our Lord Jesus (Philippians 1:6)!

Here I am Lord; for you called me. I come to do your will.
1 Samuel 3:8 and Psalm 39:8-9

This is a free resource! For more information, please visit www.acatholicmomslife.com