

DRIVE-THRU DISCERNMENT

By: Johnathan Miles Sumpter

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Article 1



One of my earliest memories of school was when our class was asked what we wanted to be when we grew up. Of course, ask a 6 year old what they want to be when they grow up and you get anything and everything from a fireman, an astronaut, to an elephant. With a very basic understanding of the world, it is almost impossible to truly understand what it means to discern a vocation.

To *Discern*, when we speak of it in the Catholic Church, usually means to “sift through” or “to make known” the choices in your life that God is calling you to. The biggest choice in life is where God is calling you in your vocation. Are you called to

be a priest/nun, married, or single? Discernment is a life long process that can not be decided overnight. Unfortunately we live in a nation of fast food and instant gratification (AKA *happiness*).

We would much rather have a *DRIVE-THRU Discernment*. We could pull up to the menu: “I’ll take a little bit of the priestly vocation, hold the celibacy; and a side of married life, but hold the commitment and kids.”

Being in this Post-Modern society of pluralistic values (AKA “whatever goes nation”), many have a “cafeteria” faith: choosing what to add or subtract in their faith formation. Many are also now doing the same with their vocation.

Because of this “cafeteria” or “Drive-thru discernment” we have a significant shortage of individuals in the priestly vocation. However, do we truly have a shortage of “vocations” in the priesthood? Maybe we just have a shortage of “discerners.” It may be that people are not listening to their call to the religious life. If people are not discerning the *Call* to the priesthood, does that also mean we are not discerning the *Call* to marriage and/or the single life? With the amount of divorces, I would say that may be quite possible.

One of the purposes of the *Drive-Thru Discernment Articles* will be to help you develop a

spirituality of discernment in your everyday life. The goal is to break the mold of the “drive-thru” mentality, and to fully explore the beauty of the various vocations.

This series of articles will be a road map through Today’s turbulent society. As we “drive thru” all of the vocations, I hope we may come to a deeper understanding of each, and a stronger sense of where God is calling each of us. The future articles are intended to be light hearted and fun. Our decisions in life may not always be easy, it may not always be the happiest momentary choice; but we know they will ultimately lead to eternal Peace and Joy.

Stopping For Directions:

In developing a road map through our discernment we must always remember that there are times where we must stop for directions.

We are not alone on this journey; we are all a part of the body of Christ. We were never intended to live life outside of the Body of Christ. This being said, the first step in discerning would be finding a “discerning co-pilot” on your journey. This “Co-pilot” needs to be someone who you trust; someone who can look at your situation, events in your life, and spirituality with an objective eye. Find someone that will help you develop a spirituality of discernment.

Life is a journey; it is a continual progress towards God’s Love: towards Heaven. Discernment does not stop until we are completely in the fold of Heaven’s embrace. Don’t try to go through it alone- there are people here; there are people who care. Making thoughtful and prayerful decisions of *God’s Call* today shapes our openness to better receive and understand God’s Call for tomorrow.

Pray through today, and you will get to and through tomorrow. Summary of Matt 6:34