

Catholic Digest

INSPIRING THE LIFE WE LEAD

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Looking for Your Dream Job?

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ think you should have a vocation — but not necessarily as a Sister, Brother, or priest

You had a plan for your work life. You went to college, began a career. Now you find yourself wondering, Am I fulfilled in my work? Are my gifts being used to make a difference? Or, going deeper: Is my relationship with God woven into the work I do?

If the answers to these questions are no or even simple uncertainty, a Community of Sisters offers a path to clarity. The Adorers of the Blood of Christ are an international community whose US Province headquarters are in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1998 the Adorers initiated *LifeChoices*®, a program that helps people discover a line of work that brings joy to the worker and service to the world.

LifeChoices® began with the conscious effort to expand the term vocations beyond Religious life to include any form of work that satisfies the worker and glorifies God. The Adorers say spiritually empowered vocational exploration, not recruitment of new members for Religious Congregations, is the primary goal of *LifeChoices*®.

In a description of the program on the *LifeChoices*® Web site (www.adorers.org), the national vocations office of the Adorers explains, “You may have had career counseling before, but we’ll go beyond work matters to what matters to you. As a spiritual discernment program ... we’ll listen to your goals and help you choose the right path to get there — no matter where you are in the world or where you’re at in your life.

“We begin with some basic questions: What do you really enjoy doing? What are your true talents? How will you leave your mark?”

“Then, we guide you through a step-by-step process of exploring the big picture and narrowing it down — discussing your options, deciding what makes sense. You can take workshops, consult with a mentor, even try out a new lifestyle by living it through a retreat or learning it as a volunteer. And as you listen for God’s call, we’re listening with you, supporting you in prayer.”

The vocations office reports that more than 400 men and women have taken part in *LifeChoices*® since its inception, and these people “... now serve their parishes and communities with a renewed sense of spiritual energy and direction.” Twenty-six participants have joined Communities.

“I’ve been sports-minded all my life,” says participant [Sister] Jan Lane [ASC]. “Right out of college I went to work for the Michigan Parks and Recreation Department. Ten years later, after my 30th birthday, dissatisfaction with my job, and much prayer, I decided I wasn’t in the right place. I went on a weekend retreat and heard Sister Raphael Ann talk about missionary work in Liberia. I knew that this spirituality was alive and she helped me discover God’s plan for me.”

This model of a theological exploration of vocation is also quickly becoming popular on college campuses. Examples are EVOKE at Loyola University, Intersections at Boston College, and the Notre Dame Vocation Initiative at Notre Dame.

For more information about *LifeChoices*®, contact Sister Diana Rawlings at 877-280-7732 [or e-mail ascvocations@adorers.org].



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