

## The Language of Vocations

First, let's look at what a VOCATION is...

Merriam Webster defines it as...

vo·ca·tion ~ vō 'kāSH(ə)n/  
*noun*

- a strong desire to spend your life doing a certain kind of work
- the work that a person does or should be doing

**Every baptized person is called to live out a vocation as either a single, married, consecrated or ordained person in order to grow in holiness here on earth and lead to our eternal happiness .** This type of vocation is more than your job or your career, it is your calling from God and your means to love and serve Him to the fullest.

When we talk about vocations, or our call, we hear words like vows, obedience, promises, celibacy. Let's look at what these mean. (all definitions are found in Merriam Webster Dictionary)

**Vow** - *a serious promise to do something or to behave in a certain way.* As Baptized Catholics our parents made promises on our behalf to live as God intended and to be faithful and intentional in our actions. As we continue on our faith journey it is our responsibility to decide to keep these promises. It is reasonable to promise to behave in a certain way as we would expect the same from others. A vow is a promise and God keeps his promise to love and support us every day.

**Promise** - *an indication of future success or improvement.* Who among us doesn't want tomorrow to be better than today? When we promise to love and serve God with our whole hearts, words, and actions the only thing we know is that tomorrow will be better. A promise is honoring our word and our values, and obeying God and his commandments.

**Obedient** - *willing to do what someone asks you to do or to follow a law or rule.* Rules are hard to follow, sometimes. But, they are necessary to insure order and consistency. God's rules, or commandments, are a way for all who follow him to understand their way. Some are easier to follow than others. It's easy to know that we shouldn't kill someone. But, is it just as easy to not be jealous of others? It's easy to know we shouldn't cheat or steal. But, is it just as easy to love your enemy and your neighbor? We must be intentional in our actions and desires so as to honor our promise to live out God's commandments.

**Chastity** - *purity in conduct and intention or personal integrity.* In looking at the definition of chastity it sounds much more attainable than it seems. The ability to make choices freely is one of God's greatest gifts. Our decisions to conduct ourselves in a manner that is pleasing to God and others take deliberate thought and effort every day. We should all be living a life that is pure in conduct and full of personal integrity. Each of us in the vocation we are called to should live in this manner each and every day.