Discernment Quotes

From Holy Women and Men:

Allow your heart to be set on fire with desire.
Sr. Kathy Sherman, CSJ, Singer and Composer

Our human vocation is to go on searching for new and deeper ways of belonging together, new ways of speaking, which realize our capacity for communion more profoundly.
Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, OP, London Author, former Master of the Order of Preachers (1945—)

What would happen if we went through one whole day of our life completely aware that our heart was a dwelling place for the Holy One?
Sr. Joyce Rupp, OSM, American Author and Conference Speaker (1943—)

Every time you listen with great attentiveness to the voice that calls you the beloved, you will discover within yourself a desire to hear that voice longer and more deeply.
Fr. Henri Nouwen, Dutch-born Catholic Priest, Professor, and Writer (1932-1996)

If you strive to see the person of Christ in others, you will be drawn to serve them with love.
Sr. Julie Myers, OSP, Vocation Director, A Nun's Life Ministry Staff

Deep within your soul there is a knowing place, a sanctuary—enter that sacred space.
Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB American Author

Vocation does not come from a voice 'out there' calling me to be something I'm not, but a voice 'in here' calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given to me at birth by God.
Fr. Thomas Merton, OCSO, American Writer and Mystic (1915-1968)

We can't talk about the poor, we must be poor with the poor and then, there is no doubt how to act.
Sr. Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, Advocate with the Poor, Martyr (1931-2005)

Do you think Jesus was concerned about logistics when he fed the multitude on that mountain?
Fr. Joseph Nassal, CPPS, American Author

Our connectedness with God calls us to be open to all that could be possible.
Sr. Loretta Cornell, MHSN, President of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart

The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.
Mr. Carl Frederick Buechner, American Writer and Presbyterian theologian (1926—)

We are asked to suspend our certainties, to loosen our grip on what is familiar, to live the questions as they arise.
There is nothing we can do to hasten the unfolding.
Sr. Pat Farrell, OSP, LCWR President 2011, LCWR 2013 Outstanding Leadership Award

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Can we breathe into our deeper self, connect with the evolving Mystery of creation in the universe and risk something new being born in us? Can we trust Intuitive Spirit to lead us through each decision and walk with us as each choice unfolds into an unknown future?

Sr. Doris Klein, CSA, American Artist

Most of us wait until we’re in trouble and then, we pray like the dickens. Wonder what would happen if, some morning, we’d wake up and say, “Anything I can do for You today, Lord?”

Burton Hillis (Mr. William E. Vaughn, American Columnist and Author, 1915-1977)

The challenge of discernment is not to figure out what God’s will is...but to work out in our concrete situation, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, how best to participate in and promote the flourishing of all creation and ourselves because this is what God wills.

Sr. Sandra Schneiders, IHM, American Theologian and Author, 2012 LCWR Leadership Award

I’ve simply tried to be open to the possibilities God has made available to me.

Mr. Fred McFeely Rogers, American Educator, Television Host, and Presbyterian Minister (1928-2003)

The fullness of joy is to behold God in everything.

Julian(a) of Norwich, Benedictine English Mystic, (1342-1416)

Lord, teach me to do what you want me to do. Let my love know no bounds.

Fr. Thomas A. Kempis, CRSA, Author of The Imitation of Christ (1380-1471)

I dwell in possibility.

Miss Emily Elizabeth Dickinson, American Poet (1830-1886)

God stands at the door and knocks, but we must open the door—God will not force the invitation upon us.

Fr. Thomas H. Green, SJ, American Educator, and Author (1932-2009)

Discernment is much more than sorting and sifting of facts. It is rather the descent into the depths of the soul where we walk into the depths of the soul, where we walk into the inner cave of Mystery, intuitive energy, the deep self. There we want to know, not the answer, but the integrity of the call.

Ms. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, Director of Catholic Worship at Bellarmine University, American Author

When we pray, how often do we say, “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.” More often, I think, we say: “Listen Lord, for your servant is speaking.

Mr. Robert J. Wicks, Clinical Psychologist and Writer (1946–)

Music is well said to be the speech of angels.

Mr. Thomas Carlyle, Scottish Philosopher, Writer and Teacher (1795-1881)

Curiosity, not certainty becomes the saving grace.

Ms. Margaret Wheatley, American Writer and Author (1941–)

As you step over the threshold to a new life, remember always that love is already there. May the wonders of life always amaze and thrill you. Remember, our love is forever.

Ken and Nancy Borneman, Parents of a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius

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