

## DISCERNMENT PRAYER

MCCW uses a discernment process to select its leadership. We encourage chapels to use discernment as well.

Below are St. Ignatius' 10 Guiding Principles of Discernment. Privately and prayerfully read them and if possible print them up and take them to adoration. In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament meditate on them. The Holy Spirit will guide you in this and all of your decision-making. "Jesus, I trust in you!" This is a general discernment, more information on the positions and duties of the board will follow in January.

For Potential Nominees Discerning a Servant-Leadership position on the Military Council of Catholic Women or Catholic Women of the Chapel Boards (Please completely pray and meditate on each part of this message to help in personal discernment to become a nominee.)

*God our Father, You have a plan for each one of us. You hold out to us the future full of hope. Give us wisdom of your Spirit, So that we can see the shape of your plan In the gifts you have given us, And in the circumstances of our daily lives. Give us freedom in your Spirit To seek you with all our hearts, and all our minds, And to choose your will above all else. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen (Based on Jeremiah 29:11-13)*

Answer each question after meditating on it. Please pray: "Holy Spirit, please bring me clarity and truth."

1. As I stay in touch with reality, what pre-existing conditions exist in my life that I cannot change that may interfere with my serving on the MCCW Board?
2. Be honest and realistic about your timetable. Don't be hasty about making this decision but don't procrastinate either. Have I prayed about serving and sufficiently thought out the sacrifices that may be needed?
3. Bounce your thoughts and plans off of those you trust. Your friends and confidants are more objective. Have I confided in those who truly know me well, those who can recognize my strengths and weaknesses without being subject to my personal issues?
4. Listen to your heart, mind, and intuitions. Make sure they are all rising from your soul. Consider practicality, functionality and rationality as well as emotions. Am I coming from a place of common sense along with the emotional side of this decision?
5. The "Evil Spirit" often tends to complicate decision making with confusion and fear. Have I kept to the core of the matter and replaced confusion and fear with acts of trust and courage?
6. Avoid decision-making during a crisis. A level head and internal peace will allow you to judge freely and honestly. Which choice yields the most peace, justice, faith and love as well as will bear the most fruit? Have I cleansed myself of selfish tendencies?
7. Know your limits! To honestly know ourselves requires humility, common sense and love. I do not seek the cross, but am I prepared to accept it?
8. Mourn the possibilities not chosen and the opportunities missed. Life is a path of letting go and dying. "Every time we let go of something we die a little." Eventually we will be asked to let go of everything (when we die) and will gain our salvation. Have I let go of that which was not

meant to be in my life?

9. Jesus is key. God gave us Jesus to show what it truly means to be a human being. If we follow Jesus' teachings and imitate how he treated people with mercy, truth, faith, fairness, justice and love we will be inspired in every decision we make and we will grow to know, love and serve him more profoundly. Do I try to live the message of Jesus to all the people I encounter in my daily life?

10. Holy Spirit please inspire me to make this decision.

*"Jesus summoned them and said to them, you know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many" Mark 10:42-45.*

If the above personal discernment leads to a yes, that you feel called and that serving MCCW will bear good fruit then you should continue your nomination discernment by filling out the nomination discernment forms found on [mccw.org](http://mccw.org): click on the *Resources* tab, then click on *Personal Prayer-Questionnaire-Inventory for Discernment*.