

*Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.*

--Romans 12:2



Here I Am, Lord

(Dan Shutte)

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, who made the stars of night
I will make their darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of snow and rain
I have borne my people's pain
I have wept for love of them
They turn away

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I will break their hearts of stone
Give them hearts for love alone
I will speak my words to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

I, the Lord of wind and flame
I will send the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them
My hand will save

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

Finest bread I will provide
'Til their hearts be satisfied
I will give my life to them
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

Feast Day April 26

O Lord of heavenly wisdom,
who has given us your own Mother Mary
to be our guide and counselor in this our lives,
grant that in all things we may have the grace to
seek maternal instruction and to profit by it in
humility and love.

O Mother of Good Counsel,
Patroness of the Military Council of Catholic Women,
help us to understand and fulfill the
mind and will of your Divine Son, Jesus Christ.

Under the blessing of the Father,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit,
may we be responsible and intelligent Daughters of the Church.

May we labor in the spirit of renewal to realize
more perfectly the Kingdom of God here below
as the only true preparation for our share in the
Kingdom of Heaven.

Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel is the Patroness of MCCW-Worldwide, Inc. and can be adopted as the patroness of your women's ministry as well. Our prayer was composed by the Most Reverend Robert J. Dwyer, D.D. (1908-1976), then Bishop of Reno, for the 33rd national convention of NCCW.

**St Ignatius's 10 Guiding Principles of Discernment
(Adapted for the Military Council of Catholic Women)**

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not for the woe! Plans to give you a future full of hope. When you call me, when you go to pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, you will find me with you, says the Lord.

1. Look deeply into all areas of your life. Ask, (what is my vocation: a mother, wife, armed forces personnel, etc.) Would serving in your chapel ministry enhance or distract from your **vocation**?
2. When discerning, be honest in evaluating your **time**. Being a servant leader for your chapel does involve time. (Some positions more than others). Prayerfully evaluate your life in essence of time to ponder if you have the ability to serve.
3. To discern properly it is important to **confide** in people who know you well and in whom you trust. A friend, spouse, or priest can help reveal to you, out of love, your strengths, weakness and natural abilities.
4. **Listen** to your whole person; your heart, mind, intellect and intuition. All "facets" should play a role. One should not dominate another. For example, our emotions can be so strong that we don't consider things practically.
5. Fear complicates and distorts discernments. Instead **trust** and courage will move you forward in the discerning process.
6. The discernment process should be a calm process where internal **peace** lies. To become a servant leader takes a bit a time and self-evaluation, don't make a decision in haste, rather, your choices will be well guided when it yields peace, justice, faith, love, and bears fruit!
7. At the center of servant leadership is **humility**. It is saying yes to be a vessel for our Lord in which HE can do HIS great work. Being humble is a process not a destination.
8. Ask yourself, "What are the areas in my life that I may have difficulty letting go? How would **letting go** of those areas enhance my being a servant leader?" Ask yourself, "Is this the time in my life that God has chosen me to become a servant leader for my chapel?" Honest discernment will reveal this.
9. **Jesus** is THE example of true servant leadership. His teachings show us how to treat people with, mercy, truth, faith, fairness, justice and love. Ask yourself, "How do I emulate the teachings of Jesus to people I encounter each day. Have I put on the garment of love?"
10. Call upon the Holy Spirit to inspire you to make a decision. An answer "Yes" or an answer "No" are both holy decisions. When answered yes, you have full peace that the Spirit is moving you forward to servant leadership. If the answer is no, it is because it may not be your time yet, and the Holy Spirit has other plans for you. Either way, when the Holy Spirit is involved, the decision itself is **holy**!

Mark 10:42-45

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 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."

Amen!

The Summons

(John L. Bell & Graham Maule)

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.