



June 13, 2017

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” --Catherine of Siena

Who?! St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380) was a mystic, a theologian, a counselor, and a politician. She helped bring Pope Gregory XI back from France to Rome. Six hundred years before Vatican II, she taught that lay people can attain the same holiness as priests and nuns. In 1970, she became one of the first two women to be proclaimed a Doctor of the Catholic Church. *credit: Louise Cunha*

Questions:

1. Do you have a clear sense of your purpose in life (i.e. “who God meant you to be”)?
 - If so, did you discover your purpose in a moment or has it been a process?
 - Is there just “one” purpose?
 - Have you been helped by others in figuring out your purpose or calling? Have you helped others?
2. How about the church (local and/or universal)?
 - Do you have a clear sense of who God has called LPC to be? Has this changed over time?
3. One “formula” that has been proposed is: **Passion + Daily Action = Purposeful Life**
 - Do you usually start with your passion, then jump into action? Or... do you start with actions (i.e. doing, exploring), then find your passion?
 - What gives you joy?
 - If you find roadblocks in your actions, does this dampen your passion and/or shift your purpose?
4. What does ‘setting the world on fire’ look like? (Discuss both on a personal level and for the church.)
5. Brother Jordan Zajac writes: “Like other mystics and saints, St. Catherine returns again and again to the image of the Divine Fire -- a symbol for the experience of God’s presence in contemplative prayer.” Discuss the connection of prayer to purpose.

Quotes:

“We are all born with a divine fire in us. Our efforts should be to give wings to this fire and fill the world with the glow of its goodness.” --*Abdul Kalam, Indian scientist and administrator who served as the 11th President of India.*

“As far as we can discern, the sole purpose of human existence is to kindle a light in the darkness of mere being.” --*Carl Jung, Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who founded analytical psychology.*