

# Vocations Placement Service

Gratefully Serving Since 2001

Vocations Placement  
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Peace and joy in Jesus! Thank you again for ALL you do for Jesus! Please see below recent testimonials from those whom we serve. Please this month's article on the reverse, **"The Gift of the Dark Night Colossians 1:24"**

## Recent testimonials below:

1. I appreciate all that you and your colleagues do. Abbot James
2. Greetings, I hope you are well! I am going to an abbey to visit for ten days. I will let you know how things go. Thanks for checking in on me. Steven
3. I've come back to learn more about becoming a sister. Maegan
4. Thank you all. I emailed them (the sisters) yesterday. Will see what visit can be arranged. Blessings and peace! Clara
5. Thank you. I will look out for emails. Discernment is going well; I have some good reading materials. I even have some visits scheduled. Thank you! Elizabeth
6. I wondered if it might be possible for me to come visit the monastery this weekend. Chris
7. Hi Natalie, Thanks for the email, I am currently in the postulancy. I originally got in contact with them through your group Vocations Placement. Thanks, Don
8. Hi Catholic Vocations Placement thank y'all so much for y'all help God bless y'all. Mariah

A humble reminder that we depend on donations from vocation directors. If you have not donated recently, please do, We operate according to Acts 4:32 "whereby all give what they can and take what they need". Our mailing address is also on the letterhead.

Or give online at: <http://vocationsplacement.org/DonateToVp.asp>

(Simply click 1 item and the amount you wish to donate.)

Love to serve! Natalie, Brad, Diane, and staff

## The Gift of the Dark Night Colossians 1:24

I've always been intrigued when I read that certain persons and saints had a "dark night" for years. What does that mean? It certainly means we have a complete and total absence of a feeling of consolation. But what is a feeling? God is Love and Love is not a feeling. Love is a Personhood. As we evolve into our full state of "Children of God" we are immersed, infused, and consumed by our true and lasting Personhood (our Spiritual DNA) that has little to do with feeling. During a dark night (by the power of sacramental graces) we stand as intercessors in reparation despite any threat of annihilation. We, like Christ, persevere as we **"turn our face like flint"** to be crucified with Christ (Isaiah 50:7 and Luke 9:51).

'Like flint', is not a feeling but a position, an immovable stance where the soul feels sharply the interior stress, the full strength of man's pride throughout antiquity unleashed by Adam, which we willingly accept in reparation for the entire church. This tension causes a tremendously painful interior agony. It is the scorching purification of the souls of others within our own souls. In addition, one can sense an enormous pressure to yield to the first lie of the devil which is that we should doubt rather than trust God (Gen 3:1). The overcoming of these dynamics within the soul of a steadfast believer results in a very real and excruciating interior crucifixion also known as "white martyrdom". An interior death so incinerating that we cannot die anymore. We live only by Christ living within us.

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore **I have set my face like flint,**  
and I know that **I shall not be put to shame** (Isaiah 50:7).

Yet in spite of the costs, we like Paul, rejoice because; **"I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church."** (Col 1:24).

These prophetic words of Isaiah 50:7, fulfilled by Christ in Luke 9:51, and willingly embraced by Paul (and us) in Col 1:24, grants us the gift of participation in the lifting of the veil to eternal life. Our willingness to stand in the fire like flint without consolation as we implore God's mercy is a gift, especially during November, as we pray for those who have passed.

Lastly, since I first heard of the Holocaust as a high school student, as I have seen the images of our beloved parentage, the Jews, (continually shared regularly by the Auschwitz Memorial) I have often said to myself, "I wish I could die for them" and by embracing this dark night, this choice of standing in reparation like flint, I believe I have in some small way (and not only for the suffering Jews but for all the church past, present, and future.)