

FROM THE DESK OF MARY SHARON . . .

## ***Reality from God's perspective***

by Mary Sharon Moore

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A friend recently offered me the engineer's solution to the perennial question: Is the cup half full or half empty?

People who see life as a cup half full are usually identified as optimists. And people who see life as a cup half empty are often identified as pessimists. Or, if you're a coffee lover like me, you might say, "Well, either way, it's time for a refill!"

But the engineer, my friend said, is neither an optimist or a pessimist, but a realist. "If the cup is half empty or half full, obviously, the cup is the wrong size! Obviously.

A healthy disposition toward "reality"—and here I mean God's reality—is absolutely essential in vocation discernment. God's reality is the full and perfect completeness of all things in the risen Christ. So God's calling is the ever-present invitation to each of us to enter into the perfection of God's plan through the circumstances and commitments of our lives.

The temptation here is to get stuck in the reality which I see with my spiritually myopic vision. My reality may consist of all

those obstacles that keep me from achieving holiness, or my lack of education or experience, or nagging debt, or poor health, or opportunities that never materialize, doors that close, prayers that God just doesn't seem to hear. That's the vocational cup half empty.

Or, an equally tempting read on my reality is the thrill of tasting holiness and wanting more, having plenty of work and wanting more, money in the bank and wanting more; superb health, and opportunities that roll in from nowhere, prayers effortlessly answered, and always wanting more. That's the vocational cup half full.

The problem is, these realities are all about me—my cup half empty or half full, and always wanting more. But the perfect sized cup for my life, vocationally, is the one shaped, filled, and provided to me by God—given to me in God's time, with the fingerprints of God's mystery all over it.

**MARY SHARON MOORE, M.T.S.**, is founding director of **AWAKENING VOCATIONS**, author of *Touching the Reign of God* (Wipf and Stock, 2009), and creator of the L.A.S.T. Workshop for workteam development. Her work in vocation discernment spans from Church ministry to animating organizations for work that touches the soul of the world. For more, visit [www.awakeningvocations.com](http://www.awakeningvocations.com).

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