

OUR MISSION

The mission of AWAKENING VOCATIONS is to deliver to parishes honest talk and practical means to cultivate fruitful response to God's calling, by:

- Providing a theologically sound and meaningful *shared vocabulary of vocation* firmly rooted in Catholic sacramental life; and
- Equipping men and women, young adults and youth with tools to competently and *confidently discern God's calling* through every stage of life.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS employs a four-step process to help parishes to:

1. Define the current vocational culture of the parish;
2. Assess the effectiveness of vocational efforts to date;
3. Offer a theology of vocation that people can understand and generously respond to, and
4. Form vocational guides for ongoing vocational discernment within the parish.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS believes that a *richly eucharistic Church* is a *truly evangelizing Church*—enabling every man and woman, every young adult and youth to experience God's calling personally, clearly, and compellingly for active engagement in ministry or mission.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS believes that *there is no shortage of vocations*, but rather, a shortage of honest conversation and practical means available to all to hear, to discern, and to boldly and generously respond to God's calling at every stage in life.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS believes that *it takes the entire Christian community*, conscious of its part in God's plan and the Church's mission, to call forth, nurture, bless, and commission every member in lifelong and generous response to God's calling.

For more information, please contact Mary Sharon Moore, director, Awakening Vocations, at 541.687.2046 (Eugene-Springfield area) or 1.888.687.2046 (Pacific Time); marysharon@awakeningvocations.com.

OUR PROCESS

The AWAKENING VOCATIONS four-step process offers a unique and powerful way to define, animate, shape, and sustain your parish's vocational culture, and thus ignite personal vocation within each member.

The four steps are as follows:

1. *Define*: **The Culture Café** opens up core team conversation around current realities and expectations for vocational formation in the parish.
2. *Animate*: **The Awakening Vocations Workshop** offers parishioners a theology of vocation and a step-by-step discernment process through all stages of life.
3. *Shape*: **The Core Team Immersion**, based on the U.S. Bishops' pastoral plan, *Our Hearts Were Burning*, refocuses all dimensions of faith formation through the lens of God's calling.
4. *Sustain*: **The Vocational Guide Formation Workshop** trains parishioners who are appropriately gifted to be "in-house" guides for ongoing vocation discernment.

Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S., founding director of Awakening Vocations, has a graduate degree in theology from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley. As an active spiritual and vocational director, she blends classic Catholic spiritual direction with charism discernment and vocation discernment. Her practice spans the United States.

Mary Sharon is author of *Touching the Reign of God* (Wipf & Stock, 2009) and *Living in God's Economy* (Awakening Vocations, 2009). Her articles have appeared in *Catechist*, *Chicago Studies*, *Liguorian*, *St. Anthony Messenger*, *Presence*, and other publications. Her programs titled "Awakening Vocations" and "Christian Celibate Life" air regularly on KBVM-FM, Catholic Radio Northwest.

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PERSONAL STATEMENT

I deliver to my audiences what I have been given to share: teaching, understanding, and encouragement concerning the nature of God’s calling and the vocational journey of life. I speak and write for the cause of awakening men and women of Christian faith to their sacramental anointing.

My life is governed by faithfulness whose origin is joy, and obedience born of love. I believe that faithfulness and obedience—a true listening with the ear of the heart—are key elements of authentic Christian life.

The Scripture passage that guides my interior life and my work comes from the Gospel of Matthew (14:26-28):

As Jesus approached the boat on the storm-tossed waters the disciples were gripped with fear. “Take courage, it is I,” Jesus said to them. “Do not be afraid.”

Peter said to him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” And Jesus said to him, *Come*. Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.

This passage is the genesis point for my understanding of God’s calling and our personal response. Before we are called to *do something*, we are asked to *be someone*—specifically, someone who takes Jesus to be LORD, accepting that Jesus does not treat our lives as a trifle, and believing that when he calls, even if it is to walk to him across the water, our response is to get out of the boat, fix our eyes on him, and walk.

This walk, from the boat to the LORD, is our vocational journey.

Arranging the details of that journey is God’s business. Our work is to respond with faithfulness whose origin is joy, and obedience born of love.