

About Awakening Vocations

Awakening Vocations, a ministry of Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S., is dedicated to awakening the vocational culture of parishes.

The overarching mission of Awakening Vocations is to offer a “whole cloth” approach to cultivating vocations, by:

- Enabling those called by God to ordained priesthood or religious life to discern the celibate vocational lifestyle and unique expression of their calling in light of a cohesive theology of vocation; and
- Enabling the laity to discern their vocational lifestyle and mission, in order to competently and confidently carry the fruits of Eucharist to the world.

Awakening Vocations believes that . . .

- **A richly eucharistic Church** is a truly evangelizing Church;
- **There is no shortage of vocations**, but rather, a shortage of means available to all to hear, to discern, and to boldly embrace God’s call;
- **It takes the entire Christian community** to call forth, nurture, bless, and commission every member for lifelong and generous response to God’s calling;
- **It is now time** to think and imagine, to plan and act, ten times more boldly in the cause of awakening vocations for our Church and the world which God so loves.

MARY SHARON MOORE, Catholic speaker, writer, and teacher, is known for her solid theology, Christ-centered spirituality, and fire of faith and encouragement which she shares with her audiences. Mary Sharon is dedicated to awakening the vocational culture of the Christian community and equipping men and women to participate competently, lovingly, and generously in God’s work in the world.



Call Awakening Vocations toll-free at **1.888.687.2046**, or e-mail **marysharon@awakeningvocations.com**, to learn more about the complete Awakening Vocations process for parishes.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS

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Welcome to . . .

The Next Step Cafe



A weekend retreat
for Catholic young adults looking for
honest talk on the nature of God’s calling in their life.

presented by

Mary Sharon Moore, M.T.S.

AWAKENING VOCATIONS



*“Proudly nourishing the vocational culture
of the Christian community.”*

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What is The Next Step Café?

This informal weekend retreat is a socially comfortable and inviting way for Catholic young adults, ages 18-35, to discern God's calling in their life and the next step God is inviting them to take.

With a theology of vocation that honors the whole person, the **Next Step Café** helps young adults make sense of the question, "Have you considered becoming a priest?" or "a religious," or "Are you thinking about marriage?" It removes terror from the possibility that one might be called by God to celibate life, or to Christian single life, or to a genuinely Christ-centered married life.

Most importantly, this retreat helps young adults to distinguish "calling" from "career," and the noise of the world from the subtle movement of the Holy Spirit. The **Next Step Café** offers young adults a workable process to discern God's calling in a way that really honors who they are and the many ways God has gifted them to participate uniquely in God's mission—which is the mission of the Church in this world.

What topics are covered?

Briefly, the retreat's content includes:

- The **vocational life** of the baptized Christian;
- Elements of discerning **vocational lifestyle** (married, celibate, single); and
- Process and practical steps for **vocational discernment**. A full list of topics is available at www.awakeningvocations.com.

Other elements include:

- **Breakout time** for discussion, personal work, and socializing;
- **Testimonials** and wisdom from local guest speakers (young married couples; mature married couples; priests, members of apostolic and contemplative religious orders, seminarians and those in religious formation, and celibate and single lay men and women);
- **Sacraments** (Reconciliation; Eucharist).



What does it cost?

The **Next Step Café**, usually offered through the local Newman Center or Catholic campus ministry, typically spans Friday evening into Sunday, and includes Sunday Mass.

The usual comprehensive fee, including advance work, weekend delivery, and follow-up with recommendations, is \$2,000 plus travel. *And note . . .*

Awakening Vocations is able to adjust its usual fee to meet unusual circumstances. Please ask!

How do we get it going?

You may call Awakening Vocations at **1-541/687-2046**, or e-mail marysharon@awakeningvocations.com, to discuss how the **Next Step Café** can be a powerful, vocationally formative experience for Catholic young adults (ages 18-35) in your area.

For environment, you will need an inviting meeting space large enough to accommodate the anticipated number of participants, seated at four-person café tables (card-table style is fine), and a small team gifted in transforming the space into an inviting café environment, complete with a maitre d' or host, and a friendly wait staff. Depending on the times of formal meeting, light café fare is recommended. A digital projector is preferred for PowerPoint. Contact Awakening Vocations for more set-up details and fresh ways to make the event appealing, effective, smooth, and memorable.

Expect these outcomes . . .

This concentrated experience in vocational discernment is uniquely designed to help young adults explore, consider, imagine, discuss, discover, share, ponder, pray, worship, and journey together. Participants will come away informed and capable of . . .

- **Reflecting on God's movement** in their life experience;
- **Beginning to discern** their vocational lifestyle;
- **Allowing God room** to be GOD in their life and in their world.

