Awakening Vocations

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Spiritual Direction Check-Up for January 2010

January is a wonderful month to take a fresh look at your life, measure where you've been, and set new goals.

This check-up offers you a few questions to stimulate interior conversation on the things that matter most in the precious time that remains for you. These questions are vocational to the core, serving as guides as you enter bravely into the new year, a challenging decade.

Question 1
When do I feel most fulfilled?
- In what situations?
- What, specifically, am I doing in these situations?
- How can I describe the experience of fulfillment or satisfaction, even quiet satisfaction?

Question 2
What am I willing to do this year to nurture this experience of fulfillment and quiet satisfaction?

Question 3
Who am I becoming through these experiences?
(Quiet satisfaction is not smug satisfaction; nor, for the spiritually mature, is fulfillment about "me.")

Question 4
In situations where I leak away precious life in futility or complacency or stagnation or outright cynicism, what is that experience like for me?

The world urgently needs people like you, willing to exchange futility for fulfillment, and stagnation for satisfaction and sharing of divine favor. You are anointed for a purpose, a work of love in this world which only you have been equipped and gifted to fulfill. Even if your life is hidden away in a place of pain or obscurity, you have a work of love to accomplish in this world. If you are not doing that work of love now, then when?

A book I have recently read and am studying more deeply is: *A Sacred Voice is Calling: Personal vocation and social conscience* (John Neafsey, Orbis, 2006). Says Neafsey: "An uneasy conscience may be one of the best places to listen for the whisper of the Spirit that calls us to a better way."

Let's seek that better way, which I understand to be the reign of God fulfilled in our hearing, in our being, and in our doing.

My thoughts . . .