



Life Shines in Vocation

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship”
(Romans 12:1).

In response to Christ’s full and final sacrifice, the Apostle Paul calls us to offer a new and different kind of offering—ourselves. These living sacrifices, presented to God by the work of the Holy Spirit, differ from those of the Old Testament. First, we are offered *alive*. The sacrifices proscribed by Moses meant the death of the sacrifice—its combustion or consumption. We daily remember our Baptisms through which we died with Christ and daily arise as living, renewed creatures, not consumed by being sacrificed, but consumed by the work the Lord has given us.

Second, we are offered *in life*. Vocation does not mean an escape from this world but rather an entering back into it. The life of the world God made, the life of those around us, and the life of the roles, relationships, and responsibilities given to us become sacred callings for which the Spirit enlivens us.

Finally, we are sacrifices offered *for life*. We are messengers of the gift of eternal life, wrought by our Savior’s work, to be proclaimed in word and deed to all. But the gift of created life, bestowed benevolently through our Father’s loving hands, is also our business. One cannot be separated from the other. The Lord who loved all of humanity by His sacrifice on the cross is the same Lord who seeks to renew humanity through His people at work in their various callings.

Embodied by Christ, living sacrifices are called to be *alive*, to be *in life*, and to be *for life*.

A prayer for strength in our vocations:

Make me present in Your presence, O God. Turn my untrusting eyes away from the gods of my past, which shackle me by shame and guilt. Refocus my sight not upon

faithless fears of the future but solely upon the work of Christ Jesus, whose wounds alone make all things new. By Your Spirit, give me new eyes that behold in those placed on my path a calling of love and service. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.