

Comparing A Religious Vocation To A Career

by John Thetford

According to Rev. John A. Hardon, S.J., a religious vocation is a special grace that God gives to certain persons, calling them to a life of the evangelical counsels. Whereas according to the dictionary, a career is an occupation or profession, especially one requiring special training, followed as one's life work. Both definitions are very similar, and everyone should pray to see if God calls them to either a religious vocation or another career. Both follow God's plan if that is what they are called to do. So a difference between a religious vocation and a career, is that in a religious vocation, you would become a priest in the church, and in a career you would not.

I think that between a religious vocation and a career, neither are better than each other. For example, Saint Zita was a mistreated servant who became a great saint through her shining inner peace as a servant. She did not have a religious vocation and still was a loving saint, and through her example, we know that you do not have to be in a religious vocation to be a holy person or to follow God's will. There are also many saints like Saint Pope John Paul II that are in a religious vocation and become saints.

I am planning to have a religious vocation, but if God does not give me that grace and tells me not to become a priest, I won't. I am going to listen to God's plan for me through prayer.

