**CAREER**

**JOB**

**WORK**

## **Prayer**

*O God, out of your love, care, and concern for all of creation, I believe you are active in the world. Help me to align my labor in the world with your work in the world.*

*Amen.*

## **Work as a Higher Calling**

***View***

*God Couture* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dXMCMKDwDU>

A young woman moves to New York to work in the fashion industry. Is she moving into a world of moral compromise, long hours keeping her away from God, and meaningless casual relationships? Not on your life. Like Jesus, she finds that her business is all about people; people she loves.

***Write and Discuss***

Take a few moments to reflect on this question. Jot down your response and then discuss them with your group.

* In what ways do you relate to this video? In what ways is your situation different?
* What’s the relationship between your work and your faith? How is that relationship expressed?

## **Call to Career and Work**

***Reflect***

The call to career and work is much more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation.

Work should be the setting for rich personal growth, where many aspects of life enter into play: creativity, planning for the future, developing our talents, living out our values, relating to others, giving glory to God … We were created with a vocation to work … Work is a necessity, part of the meaning of life on this earth, a path to growth, human development and personal fulfillment (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, nos. 127-28).

When work becomes a window for the worship of God and an avenue to love our neighbor, it reclaims its proper, dignified place (Matt Rusten, [The Altar of Work](https://www.madetoflourish.org/resources/the-altar-of-work-how-workism-is-the-new-religion/?utm_source=DPC+Email+List&utm_campaign=22d1636aa8-March+21-+Below+the+Glass+Ceiling&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_5531bede90-22d1636aa8-116157777&mc_cid=22d1636aa8&mc_eid=c1d878467f)).

As you reflect on this call to be a co-creator with God through your work, it’s quite logical to seek deeper meaning from it.

* How do I align my work with God’s work?
* How do I make sure my work is conducted with integrity, justice, and mercy for all?
* How does my work affect the important relationships in my life?
* Can my work be an expression of prayer and praise to God?
* When it comes to the vocational call to work, who is my role model?
* What is God doing in my life through my work?

Whether you are entering into the world of work for the first time or transitioning to a new job or launching a new venture or discovering a whole new skill or profession, or facing any challenges at work, you likely have a bit of anxiety, and a whole lot of wonderment for how this is going to go. One thing is certain. As you respond to this call, you will discover an aspect of God that you have not seen or experienced before. Place your trust in God, say ‘yes’ to the call as best you can, and give it your all.

***View***

*What Am I Here For?* <https://vimeo.com/146417905>

Michele Van Fossen is not a counselor, a therapist, a pastor, or a priest. Not in the traditional sense of those words. Michele is a hairstylist, and she sees her everyday job as a vehicle for healing the people who sit in her chair.

***Write and Discuss***

Take a few moments to reflect on this question. Jot down your response and then discuss them with your group.

* How is your work an authentic response to God’s call for you?
* What needs to change or shift in order for you work to be a more authentic response to God’s call for you?

## **Meaningful Work**

***Reflect***

“For many of us who work, there exists an exasperating discontinuity between how we see ourselves as persons and how we see ourselves as workers. We need to eliminate that sense of discontinuity and to restore a sense of coherence in our lives. Work should be and can be rewarding, meaningful and maturing, enriching and fulfilling, healing and joyful. Work is one of our greatest privileges. Work can even be poetic” (Max De Pree in *Leadership is An Art*).

***View***

*Work as Worship* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m06DYIAeCtU>).

We spend half our lives involved with work. Yet, we often dismiss work in God's economy, focusing on more "holy" or "spiritual" matters, neglecting the divine intersection of our jobs and worship.

***Write and Discuss***

* In what ways do you resonate with the message in this video?
* What do you do on the days when your work lacks meaning for you, and you’re just going through the motions?
* How is your work a reflection of the God to whom you have given your heart, your allegiance, your talents?

## **Blessing for Workers**

L: God creator, you labored six days to create the world. Bless workers for

 responding to your call through their work, labor, and career. Through their work,

 they show us your face, and contribute to the good of society.

 As workers respond to God’s call in their work, may they also experience the

 blessing of inner growth and understanding.

**R: Amen.**

L: As workers encounter struggles and challenges in this call, may they be open to the

 Spirit’s guidance as they do everything for the Glory of God.

**R: Amen.**

L: As workers minister to God’s people in the context of their labor, may they be

 blessed with good health and sustained energy.

**R: Amen.**

L: May God be a refuge to workers at the end of their days’ work. May God give them

 rest and rejuvenation, so that they can eagerly respond to God’s call again tomorrow

 and each and every day.

**R: Amen.**

L: May workers always serve God’s people with compassion and humility.

**R: Amen.**

L: May God bless workers with every heavenly blessing, and keep them safe and

 strong.

**R: Amen.**

L: We carry workers in our hearts each and every day. We pledge our prayers and

 support them through Christ our Lord.

**R: Amen**

**Scripture Reflections**

*I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all one’s toil—this is God's gift to all* (Ecclesiastes 3:12-13).

*Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for others* (Colossians 3:23).

*Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long* (Psalm 25:4-5).

*Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works* (Psalm 107:28-31).

*And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?" And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise." Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages"* (Luke 3:10-14).

*Blessed is the one who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but delights in the law of the LORD, and meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers* (Psalm 1:1-3).

## **Helpful Links**

God’s Good Idea: Work” (devotional) [https://www.theologyofwork.org/devotions/ gods-good-idea-work-devotional](https://www.theologyofwork.org/devotions/%20gods-good-idea-work-devotional).

“10 Key Points About Work in the Bible That Every Christian Should Know” by Andy Mills <https://www.theologyofwork.org/resources/what-does-the-bible-say-about-work>.

“Redemptive Entrepreneur,” the story of Meghan Easley, from the Fuller Studio Theology and Work website, <https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/redemptive-entrepreneur/>.

“Marketplace Missiology, Resisting a Compartmentalized Life,” the story of Christeen Rico’s ministry in the marketplace <https://fullerstudio.fuller.edu/marketplace-missiology/>.

Lives Explored Video Project. We ask everyday Christians how they see God at work in their lives. Watch how their struggles, joys, and questions capture what calling means today [https://collegevilleinstitute.org/ vocation-projects/resources-for-congregations/lives-explored/](https://collegevilleinstitute.org/%20vocation-projects/resources-for-congregations/lives-explored/).

“Designed to Work: Made in God’s Image,” Blog produced by The High Calling, <https://www.theologyofwork.org/the-high-calling/blog/designed-work-made-gods-image>

The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers ([http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/the-dignity-of-work-and-the-rights-of-workers.cfm)](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/the-dignity-of-work-and-the-rights-of-workers.cfm%29). Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God’s creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected.