

**Vocational Autobiography Assignment**  
**Personal Stories of Faith and Vocation Workshop**  
**North Park University**

**Please e-mail your essay to [thompson@pepperdine.edu](mailto:thompson@pepperdine.edu)**  
**Deadline: Friday June 22, 2009**

Vocational calling is about our identities, i.e. who we are created to be, as well as who we become over time. In particular, our identities come from God, but the process does not end there. The call is also about who we are becoming. To be called is to discern our identity and then, through our life experiences, the jobs He gives us, and our families and friends, He shapes us into the individuals we become.

Accordingly, after you have read the collection of readings on vocation, we invite you to contribute your own self-reflective writing focusing on your vocational journey. Please divide your writing into two sections.

First, please reflect on your past, i.e. on how you have become who you are. To do this, please draw from one or more of the following areas:

- A description of the major “turning points” along your vocational journey.
- Moments of crisis or confusion as well as moments of joy and clarity along your past vocational journey (e.g., experiences that have affirmed or shaken your sense of calling).
- Friends or mentors who have contributed either positively or negatively to your vocational development.
- Distractions, tensions, or barriers that have hindered your pursuit of your vocational calling.

For the second part of your essay, please focus on your present calling as well as your role as a mentor to students:

- What evidence do you have that you are living your call now?
- How do you practice ongoing discernment to your call?
- How do you mentor &/or facilitate a sense of vocation within your students &/or colleagues?

There is no pre-determined length for this writing assignment, but typical essays are 5-7 pages. Our best advice is to write what is needed to address the questions at hand. Above all, enjoy the process.