

real
life
calling

faith
relationships
school
love
future



CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE

For more information
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saintmarys.edu/Spirituality



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Real life is filled with many things...*faith... relationships... school... love... future...*
all the concerns, cares and joys we feel every day. It takes a lot of energy to keep them all in balance.

But real life isn't just about juggling those different pieces on a daily basis. It's about connecting them in a way that makes sense...helping us get up in the morning, guiding our daily decisions, and grounding us in the things that matter so we feel whole.



RealLife is a project at Saint Mary's that aims to give students and faculty the chance to talk together about how to connect all the parts of our lives in a meaningful way. Based in the Center for Spirituality, *RealLife* takes the ancient, rich idea of vocation, or calling, and brings it into the 21st century. Small groups of students and faculty have conversations over dinner about life, how to keep it balanced, and how to keep it meaningful while fulfilling their calling.

In the words of Frederick Buechner, we work together to find
"the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Application Instructions

Applications may be typed and submitted in hard copy, or sent as a word document to the Center for Spirituality, Michelle Egan, associate director, mlegan@saintmarys.edu.

Please follow the format below in typing your application. You do not need to retype the questions.

Part A. Contact information

Name
Campus address
Email address
Phone number
Class year

Part B. Please respond to each of the following with a paragraph.

Describe how you arrived at the decision to apply to this program. What attracted you? What concerns arose for you in deciding whether or not to apply?

There are many ways to define "vocation." At this point in your life, how would you define "vocation?"

Imagine you are in the following situation: You are at lunch talking with a group of people about how to make life decisions. Marissa, a senior, says she has some friends and mentors she especially trusts and respects, and she tries to call or email them for advice. Jillian, a sophomore, says she prefers to work things out herself. She would rather write in her journal or just find some quiet time to think the questions through. Sarita, a junior, says that she often finds guidance in the teachings of her faith tradition, and she will often reread some of her favorite passages when she

has to make decisions. Peter, a professor, says that he addresses questions by praying; he finds that clarity comes to him best when he listens for God's guidance. Fatima responds that she just usually goes with her gut, does the first thing that sounds good to her, and doesn't look back. The group then turns to you, and asks how you make decisions about your life. How do you answer?
Write the response you give.

Part C. References

Please list the names and contact information (email and office phone) for one or two faculty or staff members who could serve as a reference for you (e.g., professor, work supervisor, residence hall director).

Part D. Commitment

Real Life will meet four times throughout the semester. Attendance for each two and a half hour session (which includes dinner) is very important. If you are accepted into the Real Life Project, you are expected to attend ALL sessions, arriving on time and staying for the entire session. Also, you will need to agree to set aside one to two hours per week between sessions for reading, reflection, and journal exercises. These exercises are designed to help you on your vocational journey and to lay the groundwork for our table discussions.



Please add this statement to the end of your application:

I understand the importance of being a full participant in the Real Life Project and commit to attending all of the sessions and completing the exercises in preparation for each session.