

UNIVERSAL CALL TO HOLINESS

Speaker: Adult Team Member

Time: Monday 8:45 a.m.

Length: 30 minutes maximum

Purpose:

The Monday TEC theme is to GO:

1. GO back into everyday life as one in whom Christ is living.
2. GO forward in faith, growing in Christ.
3. GO to follow Jesus in the sanctified life, in holiness, to which every Christian is called.

Outline: Begin Your Talk Here

Scripture reading: Ephesians 4:1, 22–24

Response (ALL): Put on the new self . . . that is upright and holy. (Ephesians 4:24)

Introduction:

There are various ways in which this call to holiness can be lived as illustrated in last night’s vocations panel. Yet everyone—no matter what position in life they find themselves—is called to holiness. Challenge the TECites to think about and look on their present and future vocations in terms of a “call to holiness.”

I. Universal. Call. Holiness.

- A. Universal: Everyone, regardless of age, sex, race, intelligence, wealth
- B. Call: “Vocation” has its root in the Latin word *vocare* (vo-car-ay), which means “to call.” Vocation is a calling. That calling demands a response. (Read through Matthew 4:18–22.)
 1. First, it is a response of faith.
 2. Then, it is a response of living as the “new self” in Christ (Ephesians 4:24).
- C. Holiness: Living as a new creation in Christ (*You may refer back to yesterday’s Christian Life talk.*)
 1. Holiness here means being “set apart” by God for righteous living.
 2. Result of holiness is love—dying to self, giving of self, sharing with others (Ephesians 4:22–24; 5:1–2).
 3. Don’t think you’re perfect or holy? Think about Die Day and Rise Day. Remember this! Perfect righteousness is already ours as a GIFT from God as His forgiven children in Jesus.

II. Holiness in Future Vocations

(During this section, make frequent references to last night’s Vocations Panel.)

- A. Marriage (Matthew 19:3–6) or singleness (Matthew 19:12)
- B. Church vocation (Ephesians 4:11–12) or secular vocation (Ephesians 4:16)

III. Holiness Now, in Current Vocations

- A. You are called now as a son or daughter, a brother or sister, a student, an employee, a friend, and more.
- B. In Jesus, you are holy now.
 1. Do ordinary tasks extraordinarily well (Philippians 3:12–15a).
 2. Use talents and responsibilities, remembering that God has called us to holiness.

IV. Needed for Holy Living

- A. The gift of the Holy Spirit, which is given to us in Baptism and is present and working in us.
- B. Self-reflection:
 - 1. Seeing ourselves through the eyes of others (as in TEC discussions).
 - 2. Seeing our true selves through the eyes of God (as saint and sinner).
- C. Our identity in Christ:
 - 1. We forgive ourselves as God forgives us (Philippians 4:6–7; Galatians 2:19–20).
 - 2. We recognize that there is sin in our lives and pray that God would help us turn away from sin daily, dying to self.
 - 3. We acknowledge limitations but also acknowledge the good qualities and gifts that God has given—the unique, precious, loved individual God has made each of us to be.
- D. Prayer
 - 1. Necessary for sharing our life with others (James 5:13–18)
 - 2. Letting our lives be offerings to God (our actions are prayers too! Ephesians 5:1–2)
 - 3. Rejoicing always before God (Philippians 4:4)
- E. Living in the NOW
 - 1. Participate, don't anticipate!
 - 2. One moment at a time; not wasting precious time reliving or regretting the past; nor daydreaming about the future.

Conclusion:

God calls each of us to lives of holiness. God gives us the challenge . . . and His Word to guide us in living a life worthy of His calling (Ephesians 4:1, 22–24; Colossians 3:12–17).

QUESTION (asked by Lay Director following this talk):

What does it mean to me to be holy, to put on my new self?