

1. Discerning angst.

Thomas Merton: "For me to be saint means to be myself... the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I am... of discovering my true self. Some have to become prodigals, some will become older brother, some will stay home and grow right."

T.S. Eliot points out this danger in the following way: 'We had the experience but missed the meaning'.

2. Fundamental conditions for discernment:

Gr. Diakrisis  
Gr. Dokimazein  
Gr. Apodokimazein  
Hbr. Bahar

A. Humility

B. Readiness to repent

3. What do we confuse discernment with?

4. Spiritual Direction

CCC #2690 *The Holy Spirit gives to certain of the faithful the gifts of wisdom, faith and discernment for the sake of this common good which is prayer (spiritual direction). Men and women so endowed are true servants of the living tradition of prayer.*

*"If the spiritual director has no experience of the spiritual life, he will be incapable of leading into it the souls whom God is calling to it, and he will not even understand them." - St. John of the Cross*

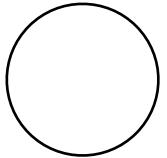
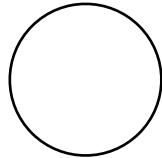
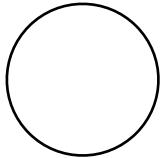
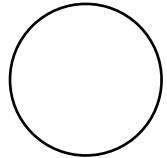
5. Content of discernment

CCC 2847 *The Holy Spirit makes us discern between trials, which are necessary for the growth of the inner man, and temptation, which leads to sin and death. We must also discern between being tempted and consenting to temptation. Finally, discernment unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good, a "delight to the eyes" and desirable, when in reality its fruit is death. God does not want to impose the good, but wants free beings. . . . There is a certain usefulness to temptation. No one but God knows what our soul has received from him, not even we ourselves. But temptation reveals it in order to teach us to know ourselves, and in this way we*

PROPHETIC MINISTRY SCHOOL  
NOVEMBER 2018: DISCERNMENT

*discover our evil inclinations and are obliged to give thanks for the goods that temptation has revealed to us.*

6. Communication



7. Communicator

8. Biggest obstacle to discernment

9. The will of God.

*MY LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. - Thomas Merton*

*Freedom, therefore, is essential to vocation -- a freedom which, when it gives a positive response, appears as a deep personal adherence, as a loving gift -- or rather as a gift given back to the giver who is God who calls, an oblation: "The call" -- Paul VI once said -- "is as extensive as the response. There cannot be vocations unless they be free; that is, unless they be spontaneous offerings of oneself, conscious, generous, total....Oblations, we call them: Here lies in practice the heart of the matter.... It is the humble and penetrating voice of Christ who says, today as yesterday, and even more than yesterday: Come. Freedom reaches its supreme foundation: precisely that of oblation, of generosity, of sacrifice." - John Paul II*