
A SACRED VOICE IS CALLING

Personal Vocation and Social Conscience

John Neafsey



ORBIS BOOKS
Maryknoll, New York 10545

Founded in 1970, Orbis Books endeavors to publish works that enlighten the mind, nourish the spirit, and challenge the conscience. The publishing arm of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Orbis seeks to explore the global dimensions of the Christian faith and mission, to invite dialogue with diverse cultures and religious traditions, and to serve the cause of reconciliation and peace. The books published reflect the views of their authors and do not represent the official position of the Maryknoll Society. To learn more about Maryknoll and Orbis Books, please visit our website at www.maryknoll.org.

Copyright © 2006 by John Neafsey.

Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without prior permission in writing from the publisher.

Queries regarding rights and permissions should be addressed to: Orbis Books, P.O. Box 308, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0308.

Unless otherwise indicated in the text, biblical translations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Cover photo: "Para Que Todos Lo Sepan."
Copyright © 1998 by Daniel Hernández-Salazar.

Manufactured in the United States of America.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Neafsey, John.

A sacred voice is calling : personal vocation and social conscience /
John Neafsey.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN-13: 978-1-57075-645-0

1. Vocation—Catholic Church. 2. Christian sociology—Catholic Church. I. Title.

BX1795.W67N43 2006

248.4—dc22

2005026998

CONTENTS

Preface ix

1. Introduction: Personal Vocation and Social Conscience 1
 - Meanings of Vocation* 2
 - The Voice* 5
 - Learning to Listen* 10
 - Learning to Live* 13

2. Sacred Voices: Listen, So That You May Live 19
 - Spirit Persons* 20
 - The Cry of the Poor* 26
 - The Still, Small Voice* 30

3. Discernment: The Inner Compass of the Heart 36
 - The Inner Compass* 37
 - Discernment of Spirits* 40
 - Three Key Questions* 43
 - Discernment and Social Analysis* 45

4. Authenticity: To Live as though the Truth Were True 51
 - True Self, False Self* 52
 - Wholeness and Holiness* 57
 - Truth and Lies, War and Peace* 62
 - The Truth Will Make You Free* 67

5. Passion and Compassion: The Heart's Calling 71
 - Reasons of the Heart* 72
 - Falling in Love* 74

	<i>Our Desires and God's Desires</i>	78
	<i>Compassion and the Heart of God</i>	82
6.	Vision: The Quest for a Worthy Dream	89
	<i>The Vision Quest</i>	90
	<i>Dreams: God's Forgotten Language</i>	93
	<i>The Dream with a Capital "D"</i>	98
	<i>Prophetic Imagination and the Dream of God</i>	100
7.	Suffering: The Call of the Wounded Healer	109
	<i>Growing Pains</i>	110
	<i>Symptoms as a Voice of the Soul</i>	112
	<i>The Wounded Healer</i>	115
	<i>Redemptive Suffering</i>	122
8.	Conscience: The Morality of the Heart	131
	<i>The Inner Voice of Conscience</i>	132
	<i>Real and False Guilt</i>	137
	<i>The Sound Heart and the Deformed Conscience</i>	140
9.	Social Conscience:	
	Awakening from the Sleep of Inhumanity	146
	<i>Option for the Poor</i>	147
	<i>The War on Terror and the Call of Conscience</i>	153
	<i>The Call to Speak</i>	157
10.	Conclusion: A Still and Quiet Conscience	161
	<i>Success and Failure</i>	162
	<i>Risks and Mistakes</i>	167
	<i>Love and Death</i>	171
	<i>How Can I Keep from Singing?</i>	175
	Notes	179
	Index	205