



The Common Good



“Vocation is not only about ‘me’ and my personal fulfillment, but about ‘us’ and the common good.”

- John Neafsey

One of the tasks of discovering a sense of purpose and vocation is to come to a deepened understanding how our personal thriving fits within a larger context, that of the common good of all people. Most simply, the common good refers to the good of the whole, and it involves moving our attention beyond limited focus on what is good for the individual. One’s understanding of the common good can become an important foundation, reference point, and motivation for our self-understanding, our personal actions and decisions, and our understanding of purpose and vocation.

Common Good Sentence Completion Exercise:

Some of the people and the experiences that have contributed to the successes I have enjoyed in my life so far are . . .

In order for people to have an opportunity to thrive, they need _____, because . . .

When a person suffers from the negative effects of poverty, what can help them get (back) on their feet is _____, because . . .

“In certain times, places and situations, society and its institutions and economic and political systems can disadvantage some and benefit others.” One institution or system that seems to disadvantage some is _____, because . . .

In order to encourage true societal change towards a more just and loving world and society, what we most need is _____, because . . .

Some phrases or words that get at what I understand by the *common good* include . . .

Reflecting on my answers above, something I want to remember related to my own sense of purpose or vocation is . . .