

## Purifying Attitudes of Discernment (for formators too!)

- **The Worrier** - Anxious deliberation. Underlying desire to control the relationship.
  - Lie: God is hiding his plan. *I* have to figure this out!
  - *What she might say*: “Stop stressing out and just be with me!”
  - Closed in on himself. Intense. Anxious. Impatient.
  - “*Our vocation is not a sphinx’s riddle which we must solve in one guess or else perish.*” –Thomas Merton
- **The Stalker** (Lone Ranger) - Discerns the call on his own. Possessive of the vocation. This is mine. The only way I’m leaving is if they kick me out. The only way he’s leaving is through me!
  - Lie: It’s about what I want, not what God wants. “I know you are called...”
  - *What she might say*: “Eww! Get away from me you creep.”
  - Thinks discernment is over. Has a right to ordination. Indignant if his judgment is called into question.
- **The Man-Child** (Peter Pan Syndrome) - Paralyzed by fear. Avoiding difficult realities. What would I do if I left seminary? What would I do if the poster shrinks? Fear of the unknown (working, dating, housing, socializing, etc.) Fear of not being followed (priestly paranoia)
  - Lie: I don’t have what it takes to make it outside of seminary.
  - *What she might say*: “Grow up. If you’re ever going to take care of a family, you need to figure out how to take care of yourself first. Are you looking for a wife or a nanny?”
  - Timid and uncertain. Coddled and comfortable.
  - Everything is so great in the seminary, why would I ever leave!
- **The Fugitive** - Running from something. (Broken family, disordered attractions, SSA, etc.) I come from brokenness, so I’ll spread brokenness everywhere I go. I can’t be a good husband or father.
  - Lie: I’m beyonds God’s help. He can’t heal this part of me.
  - *What she might say*: “So you’re not good enough for someone else, but you’ll inflict yourself on me?”
  - Hides behind masks - liturgy, dress up, externals, comforts, etc.
  - May run from the seminary when brokenness is brought to the light.
- **The Proxy (People-Pleaser)** - Living someone else’s vocation. Mom, pastor, quilters think you’ll make a great priest. Now you feel trapped.
  - Lie: God must be speaking through them because they’re holy.
  - *What she might say*: “Am I dating you or your mom?”
  - Insecure. Uncertain of who he is or what he wants.
- **The Higher-Calling Guy** - Priesthood is the only way to holiness. Marriage is a “temptation”.
  - Lie: Priesthood is the only path to holiness
  - *What she might say*: “You’re a self-righteous jerk. But at least you’ll be a *holy* self-righteous jerk.”
  - Elitist. Clerical. Confuses state in life with personal holiness.
- **The Masochist** - Vocation/celibacy = my cross. Doing penance for past mistakes? Proving yourself?
  - Lie: God wants me to be miserable. (Duty, not love.)
  - *What she might say*: “So I’m a burden to you? I’m your cross to carry? Boy, you know how to make a girl feel good.”
  - This guy is pretty miserable. Resigned. Prayer and priestly life are simply duty.
  - “***You will know your vocation by the joy that it brings you.***” - Dorothy Day.