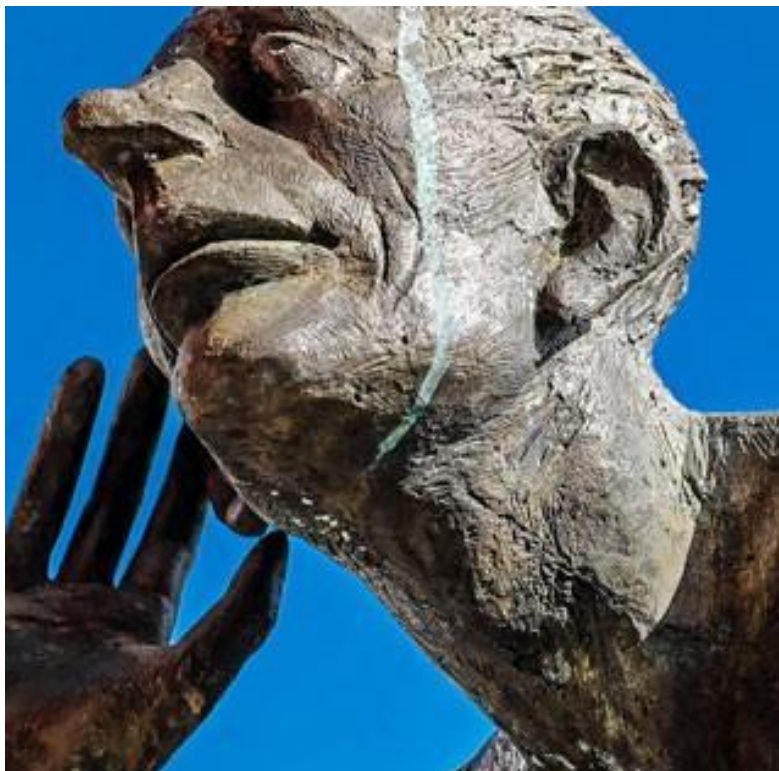


Ignatian Decision Making



Discernment in the Ignatian tradition

Discernment of Spirits
the microchoices of my life

**Discernment of God's
will leading to a
particular decision**
times of significant life
choices

FAITH

- Relationship with God more important than outcome of decision
- Images of God and Jesus
- Your sense of **how** God acts in the world
- Previous experience of discernment of spirits
- Place of tradition and church – what does your community offer in support of your decision process?

FREEDOM

- Unlikely to be totally free, but at least have the desire for freedom
- Aiming to be at balance, content with outcome because of your God-relationship
- What is getting in the way
- Are you free **enough**, able to take risk on God?
- Self-knowledge and reflection. Where is your ego in all this?

FACTS

- Realistic approach to your own gifts and skills
- Research
- Different personalities: - some people will want to limit possibilities too soon, others will keep opening up new possibilities
- Is there a time limit to this decision? Beware of desire for haste when it's not necessary.
- Openness to all the options

FEAR

- Almost always plays some part in decision making - can be very subtle
- Rarely 100% confidence in a decision
- Trust and freedom necessary
- In the end the actual decision is secondary as you as you stand before God, it is the relationship which brings peace



It ain't
what you
do...

It's the way
that you do
it...



**Reflecting
on a past
decision**



3 Times in any of which a good decision can be made

First time – God
moves and
attracts in such a
way that there is
no doubt



Second time – get
enough light and
knowledge to
discern

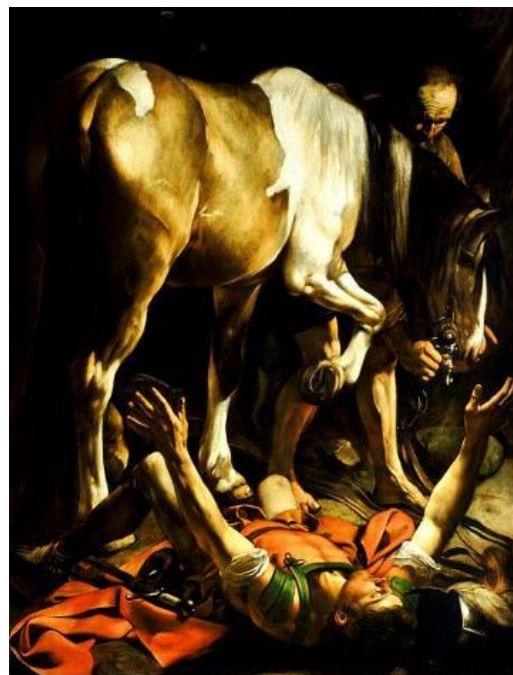


Third time –
tranquil time with
full use of reason



First Time

I just know
it's from God



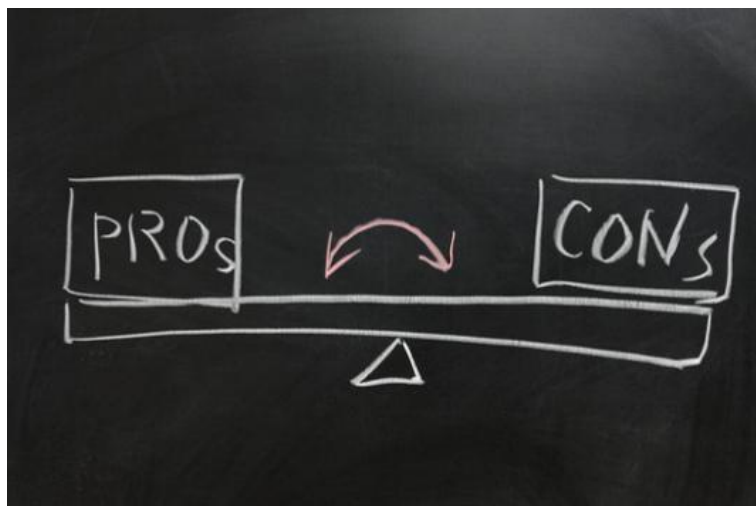
Second Time


Discernment of movements and counter-movements



Third Time

1st way - Weigh the pros and cons





I will take the new job		I will stay in my current job	
Advantages	Disadvantages	Advantages	Disadvantages

Third Time

2nd way – Engage imagination

- What would I tell a stranger to do
- If at the point of death, what would I wish to have done
- On the day of judgement, , what would I wish to have done