Key elements of my vocation

God calls you personally

God is interested in you personally and he calls you personally. Many times in scripture we see God calling individual men and women such as Noah (*Gen* 6:8-22), Abraham (*Gen* 12:1-30), Sarah (*Gen* 17:15-16), Moses (*Ex* 3:1-4:14), Samuel (1 *Sam* 3:1-18), Mary (*Lk* 1:26-38), the Samaritan woman (*Jn* 4:1-42) and Peter (*Mt* 4:18-20). Pope Francis has commented on this personal aspect of vocation: "In calling us God says to us: "You are important to me, I love you, I count on you." Jesus says this to each one of us! Joy is born from here, the joy of the moment in which Jesus looked at me. To understand and to feel this is the secret of our joy. To feel loved by God, to feel that for Him we are not numbers, but persons; and to feel that it is He who calls us" (Vatican City, 9 July 2013).

Your vocation is an expression of who you are

"Be who you are meant to be and you will set the whole world on fire": this is a common paraphrase of the words of St Catherine of Siena. It's tempting to think of your vocation as something you *do*. But St Catherine of Siena speaks of vocation in terms of *being*, not *doing*. Vocation is not simply something that you *do* but it is an authentic expression of who you are, of your very identity.