Vocation: The Actual Me and the Supposed-to-be-Me

1. The Actual Me
   1. Ask students to get into pairs
   2. Have students use What I Do Best cards for each partner (see instructions)
2. The Supposed-to-be-Me
   1. Remind the group that they’ve been working on their actual selves, finding cards that truly fit them. Now it’s time to shift gears.
   2. Ask the group to reflect on the question, Who gives you messages about who you are supposed to be?
   3. Ask the students to create card “maps” for their Supposed-to-be-Selves. Note: It may be helpful for students to imagine a particular source of messages for who they’re supposed to be (i.e. parents, Concordia dominant culture, a magazine to which they subscribe, etc.).
3. Compare and Contrast
   1. Ask the students to compare and contrast their two card maps, The Actual Me and The Supposed-to-be-Me. How similar or dissimilar were they?
      1. Straw Poll: Give students a scale of 0-10 with 0 meaning the two maps were the exact same (same cards in same arrangement) and 10 meaning the two maps were completely different (totally different cards). Ask students to assign their number value first before asking the group to share.
         1. Reflect on the straw poll: What does this say about the students’ lives, about the messages they receive, about the challenges of college life?
4. Frederick Buechner suggests that vocation, “is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.” How does this relate to the Actual Me and Supposed-to-be-Me?
   1. Have you ever tried to live as your Supposed-to-be-Me? What was that like? What would it be like to live a whole life as your Supposed-to-be-Me, trying to meet the world’s deep hunger?
   2. What resources does it take to live as your Actual Me?
   3. Is your Actual Me set or is your Actual me evolving over time? Is there a point at which your Actual Me will be “done”? How do you respond to the world’s deep hunger if your Actual Me is changing?
   4. Have you experienced the world’s deep hunger? How did you know? Where is the world? What qualifies as deep hunger?