

**God Does Not Always Call The Qualified; He Qualifies The Called (The Importance Of Recognizing Who You Are In the Catholic Faith)**

Have you ever been asked to join a ministry, assist in a program or take on a new job and your first instinct was to say no? Did you feel that you were not qualified? God does not always call the qualified. In fact, many times He qualifies the called. In other words, He does not expect you to be a summa cum laude graduate from Harvard Business School or obtain a doctorate degree in Theology from Boston College. While those are praise worthy degrees and rightfully so, often times He calls the most quiet and humble of His children. With your diverse gifts and talents, you have the opportunity to become an instrument for Christ. Whatever you do, God sends the Holy Spirit to inspire and enlighten. He will give the tools, the graces and the people to qualify you. By putting your fears aside, think about the possibilities if you made a sincere commitment to make a positive difference in the lives around you. Many Lay Catholics would like to be more involved, but do not have a clear understanding of their role in the Church. First of all, you can't stand on the sidelines and watch and hopefully "the Coach" will call you in to play. You must read the signs and the signals in order to see what "the Coach" is calling you to do. The first requirement, of course, is the faith to believe that He really is calling you and you can make a difference. Consider the examples of St. Thérèse of Lisieux or Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta. The world needs Catholics to make a difference. Where can I serve? Maybe God is qualifying you to lead a prayer group to pray earnestly for the Church, the sick, end abortion and the souls in purgatory (among other things). Maybe He is qualifying you to be a catechist or active in other areas in the parish (Knights of Columbus, CCW, Men's Group, RCIA, Youth Ministry, Adult Faith Enrichment, CLOW). Wherever you are called, being both at the parish and in the secular world, you have countless opportunities each day to serve Him in your words and deeds. *Live as a Catholic; speak as a Catholic.* We can't be cafeteria Catholics. You are called to live a genuine Catholic life. *Be a light for Christ to others.* As your new adventure begins, you will hear God whisper over and over to your soul, "Fear not, for I have called you. I'll go before you, beside you, and behind you. But I will never leave you." –Sherrie Clutts DRE