

CALLED BY NAME

THE VOCATION OF CATECHETICAL LEADER



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It All Begins with Jesus

You are called by name

THE CALLING

BEING NOT DOING

Practicing the art of being

Not "me and God" but "we and God"

GOD

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

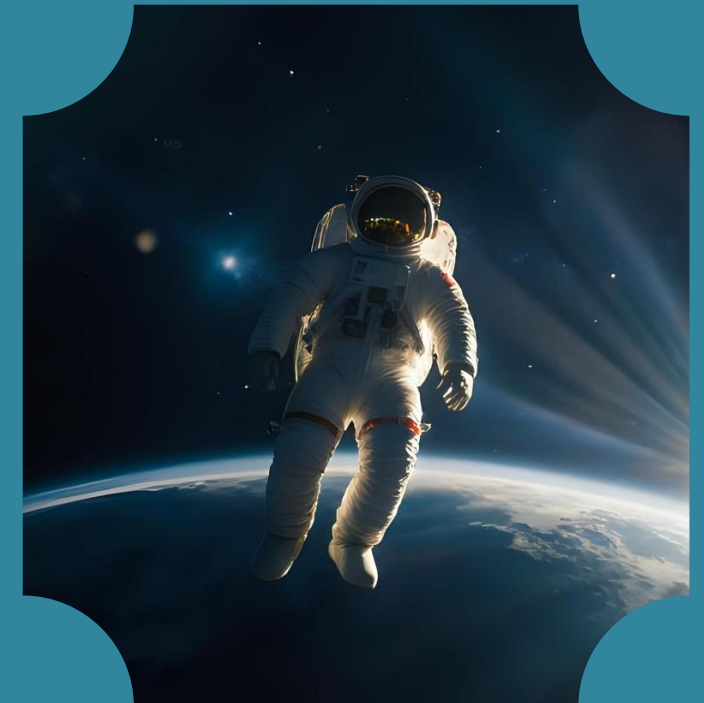
Virtue and humility

THE CALL



What did you
want to be
when you
grew up?

God has a
different
plan for you





HOW DOES GOD CALL PEOPLE?

Moses (Exodus 3:2-4, 9-10)

Samuel (1 Samuel 3:4-10)

Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-8)

Paul (Acts 9:3-6)

**YOU HAVE BEEN
CALLED BY GOD**


Luke 1:26-38



Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego

How was your call?





God's callings
are often
times

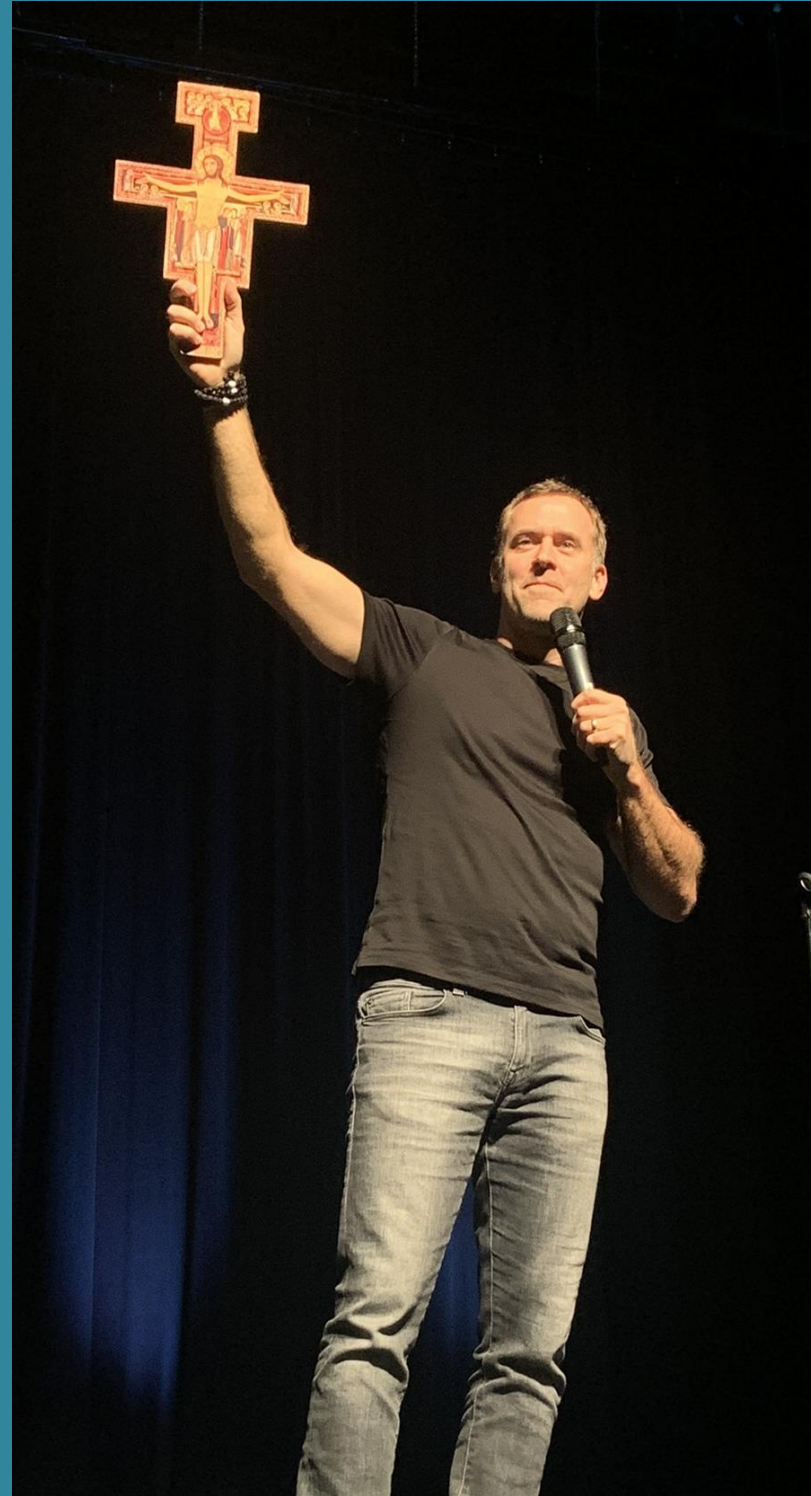
uncomfortable.

If they weren't then
we've simply stepped
from one comfort zone into another.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN CALLED TO?

CATECHETICAL LEADER

A baptized Catholic called to coordinate Religious Education programs handing down the faith so people can grow in knowledge, prayer and discipleship.



LEADER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

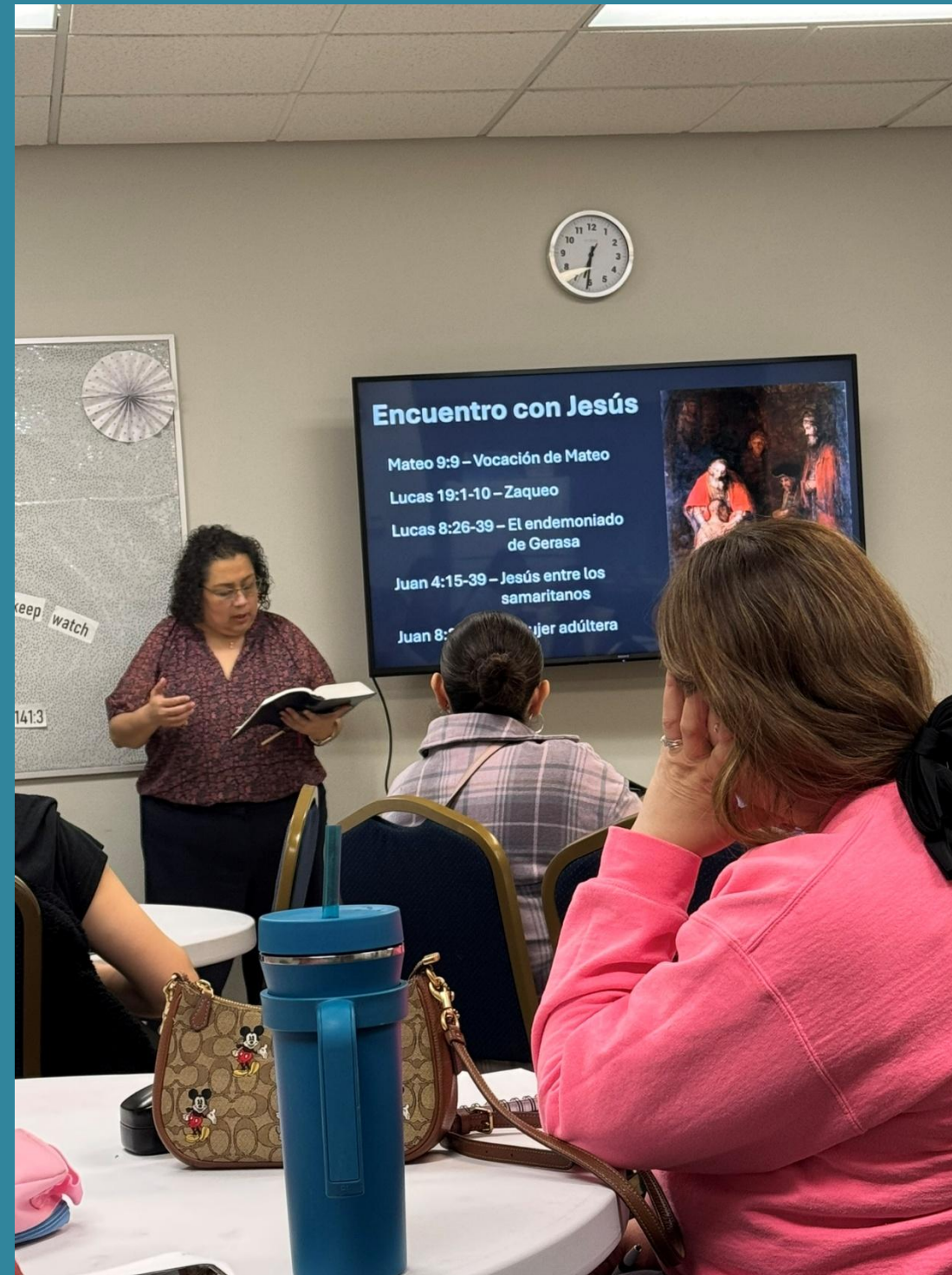
A baptized Catholic who shepherds the whole community toward communion with Christ through prayer, sacraments, and service.

WHAT HAVE I BEEN CALLED TO?

CATECHETICAL LEADER

Specializes in teaching and forming disciples.

“Create a culture of formation”



LEADER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Governing, celebrating, and serving the whole parish or diocese.



CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Before God called you to catechetical or church leadership, he called you to discipleship:

A life of actively following Jesus

A life that is marked by joy and hope, with the confidence that in God, all shall be well.



RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

Significant people

Moments of joy

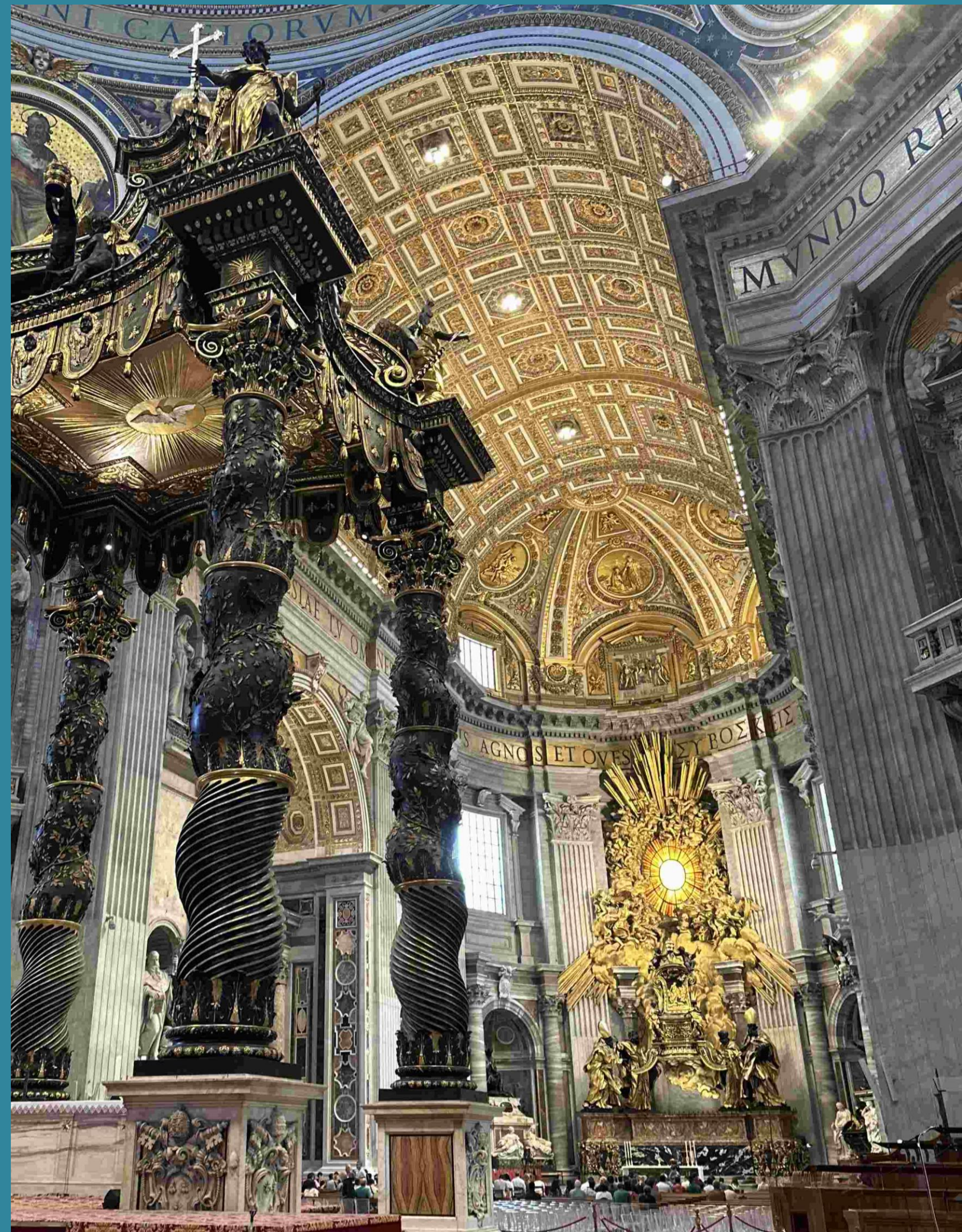
Peak moment of Grace

Milestones in life

Jesus is not to be
admired from a
distance.

Jesus does not desire
fans who cheer from
the sidelines

Our task is to foster
encounters with a person –
Jesus Christ



YOU ARE CALLED BY NAME

Vocation of the
catechetical leader



YOUR CALLING

PERSONAL STORY





VOCATION

A call to holiness!

Isiah 43:1

Romans 1:1, 4-6

Not to be perfect
but to be authentic

VOCATION

Way of life

God is involved

We respond

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine."

Isiah 43:1

"RECALLING YOUR CALLING"





HOW DO I LISTEN TO “GOD’S VOICE”?

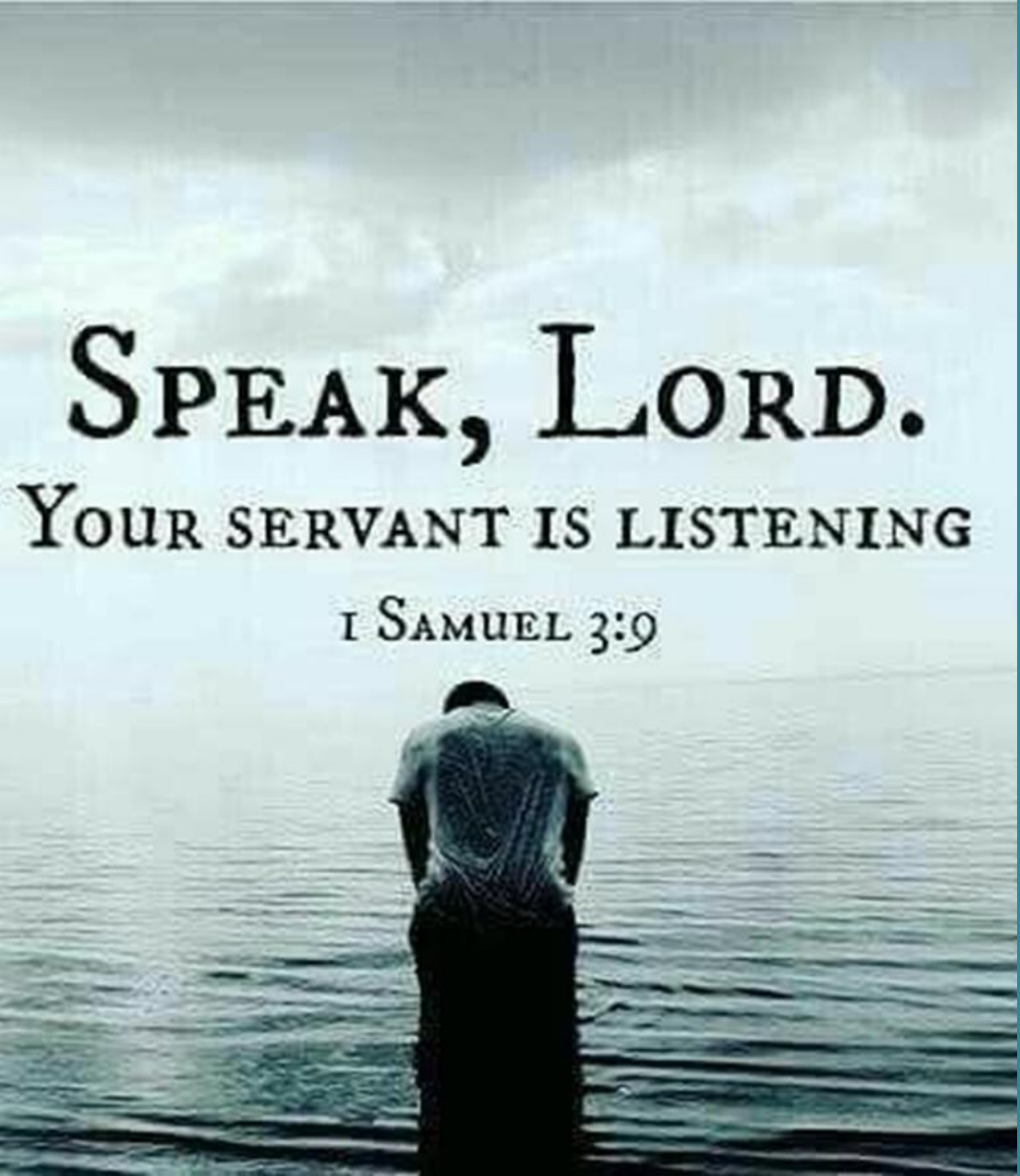
GOD IS SUBTLE

1 Kings 19:11-13

Not in an earthquake

Not in a fire

Gentle whisper



SPEAK, LORD.
YOUR SERVANT IS LISTENING
1 SAMUEL 3:9

HOW DO I LISTEN FOR “GOD’S VOICE”?

- Thoughts
- Memories
- Feelings
- Hopes and desires
 - Nature
 - Experiences
 - Encounters with others
 - Encounters with beauty

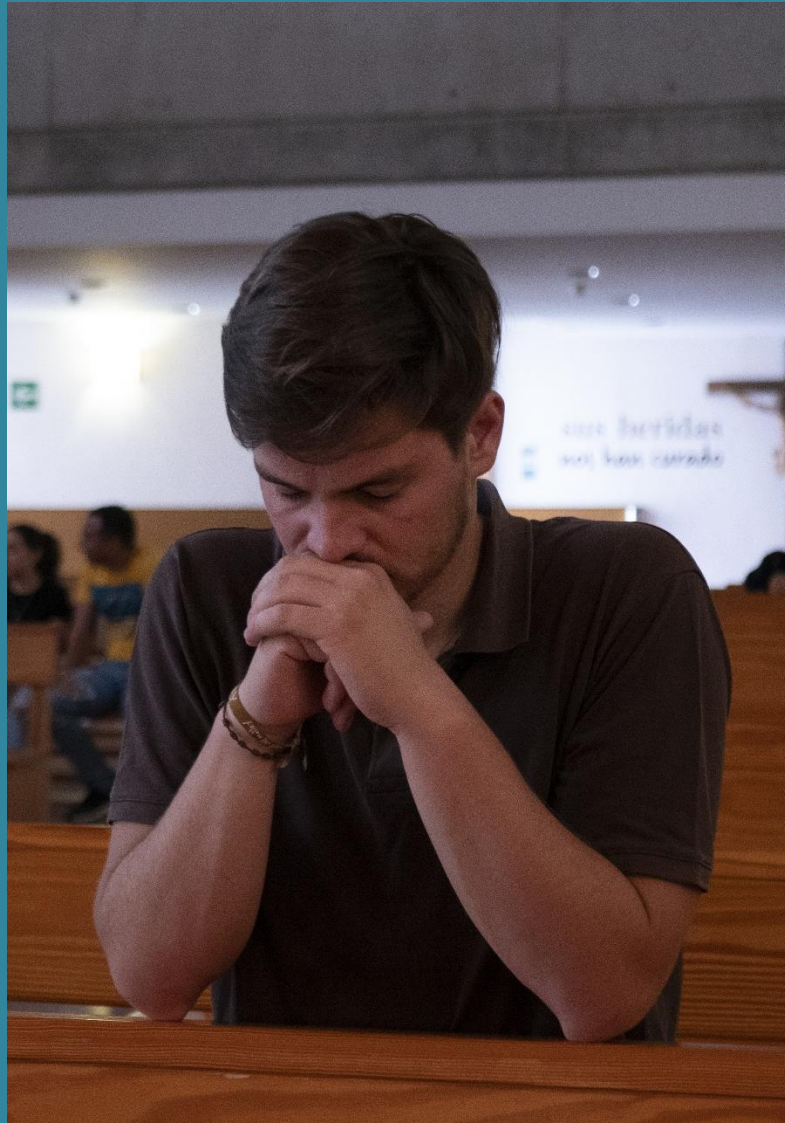
HOW DO I LISTEN FOR “GOD’S VOICE”?

Dreams

- Dreams about the seven cows and seven ears of grain
- Angel appeared to Joseph in a dream about Mary’s pregnancy
- Flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus
- Not to return to Herod
- God calling Samuel in his sleep



HOW DO I KNOW IS “GOD’S VOICE”?



We need to involve God in our decision making.



Discernment: aligning ourselves with God’s will to learn what God is calling us to.



Vocation and discernment are not “once and done” experiences, God calls us each and every day.



DISCERNING HOW GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU

- Talk to someone you respect
- Find some solitude
- Start with what you know
- Consult the community
- Tell God what you desire and fear
- Let God speak to you



DISCERNING HOW GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU

- Know that God has a plan for you
- Pray to do God's will
- Wait
- Prayerfully commit
- Check out the fruits



Throughout scripture, people who encounter God's call tend to react with surprise, confusion, fear and even reluctance.

Elizabeth responds to a visit from her pregnant cousin Mary by asking, "why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

(Luke 1:43)

SPIRITUALITY & SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

Practicing the
Art of Being





SPIRITUALITY

How humans experience
and nurture their
relationship with God

A Person – Jesus Christ

Begin with your own spirituality

Tips for maintaining spiritual wellness

1. Nurture daily prayer
2. Participate fully in the Sacraments
3. Ongoing Faith Formation
4. Practice Works of Mercy
5. Silence and Simplicity
6. Build a Catholic community life
7. Integrate faith into your daily life





SPIRITUALLY WE ARE ALWAYS HUNGRY...

Nothing satisfies that hunger like the Eucharist, the “gift of finest wheat.”

Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament

Reconciliation

Reading and praying
with Scripture
(Lectio Divina)

Devotional
practices,
particularly
the rosary.

TOOLS TO NOURISH OUR SOUL



St. Ignatius of Loyola

Ignatian spirituality

Spiritual Exercises to grow
in intimacy with God and
to discern God's will.



DAILY EXAMEN

Prayerful reflection on the events of the day

- Twice daily 15-20 minutes
 - at noon
 - at the end of the day
- God's presence
- Review day with gratitude
- Attention to your emotions
- Discern God's will
- Look forward to the rest of the day or to tomorrow

Talk to Jesus like a friend!

Are we looking for more?



Spiritual person = there's more to life than meets the eye

Christian spirituality = God is accessible through Jesus Christ

"Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you"

(John 14:27)

US

BEING

Spiritual
wellness

KNOWING

Grow in
knowledge
of Jesus
Christ and
our Catholic
Tradition

DOING

Grow in our
ability to
transmit the
Catholic
faith to
others





Put aside knowing
and doing and
focus on being.

“Silence is God’s first
language; everything
else is a poor translation.”

Thomas Keating



BALANCE

Ministry Burnout

- There's no end in sight
- Am I making a difference?
- Feels like a merry-go-round
- Tired of the same ol' faces
- Self-care
- Putting on the persona
- Uncertainty

Elijah came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," HE SAID. Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors..." 1 Kings 19:4:8



I have had enough, Lord!

No one is exempt from burnout
but we need to find peace...

Schedule pauses and
breaks from your ministry

Projects or hobbies

“When Elijah said, „
“Lord, I want to die.”



God gave him the strength to live.

A scenic view of a hillside with a church and trees. The church is a stone building with a prominent bell tower, situated on a hill covered in green trees and bushes. The sky is overcast and grey. The foreground is filled with dense green foliage, including a large tree on the left side of the frame.

SET LIMITS

As ministers we are wired to help.

- Solitude
- Nurture healthy relationships outside your ministry
- Separate ourselves from our achievements and our failures

No!

No need to say yes to every request you receive

- Set boundaries and limits on your time
- Set limits on how you “let off steam” or “take the edge” in response to stress in your ministry.





WE ARE NOT GOD!

We are called to do God's work

Messiah complex

Your life is about Jesus and his mission or about you. There is no third option.

Bishop Barron

**Ministry is about looking
for a place to SERVE not
a place to shine!**



IMAGO DEI IMAGE OF GOD

“... We must think of ourselves as representatives of God, bringing His power, His wisdom, His heart, His mind to the world. The image of God is a mission and a responsibility.”

Bishop Barron World Meeting of Families 2016

Spiritual leader not a theologian





**WHAT DO BATMAN,
SUPERMAN, IRON,
MAN AND
WOLVERINE HAVE
IN COMMON?**

LONE RANGERS



What is the reason people do not get more involved in parish life or ministry?

No one ever invited them!!

- Any time you spot a talent or gift, acknowledge it out loud
- Be affirming of others' gifts and talents
- Personal invitation is the most effective form of invitation
- Privately and publicly thank the person and acknowledge their talents.

FOLLOWER OF JESUS = BE A MEMBER OF A COMMUNITY OF FAITH



Jesus' Team
The apostles

Mark 3:13

Romans 12:4-8

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTERS



No replacement for the ordained, nor are they in competition with them

...obliged to acquire the appropriate formation which is required to fulfill their function properly” #231

The heart of service in ministry is collaboration

“No one has all the wisdom;
everyone has a different piece;
everyone has some of the wisdom.”

Mary Benet McKinney, O.S.B.

- Respect
- Openness
- Fairness
- Willingness to listen
- Privacy
- Presence
- Commitment





**NOT “ME AND GOD” BUT
“WE AND GOD”**

Finding support

Keep it real



Professional Organizations

- NCCL – National Community of Catechetical Leaders
- USCCB Institute on the Catechism
- NFCYM – National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry
- NALM – National Association for Lay Ministry
- NCCHM – National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry
- FCH – Federation for Catechesis with Hispanics
- Instituto Fe y Vida
- LaRed – National Catholic Network of Pastoral Juvenil Hispana

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

WHAT'S THAT?

“Help given by a trained and faith-filled person (often a priest, religious, or qualified layperson) to grow in their relationship with God.”

It's not therapy





HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Once a month session
- One hour
- Listens as the person shares recent events to explore how God has been present.

HOW DO I GET ONE?

Seek out a spiritual director through your local parish or retreat center.

KEY ELEMENTS

Listening
Discernment
Guidance
Freedom

How it Differs from Other Roles?

- Not confession
- Not therapy
- Not teaching a class



Leading with Virtue & Humility

How would Jesus
approach my role?





SERVANT LEADERSHIP

At the core of Jesus' leadership style is the notion of service.

John 13:3-11

- Any time you spot a talent or gift, acknowledge it out loud
- Be affirming of others' gifts and talents
- Personal invitation is the most effective form of invitation
- Privately and publicly thank the person and acknowledge their talents



WASHING THE FEET OF OTHERS

- Put the needs of others first
- Lead with humility
- Practice speaking of your relationship in affirming terms
- Roll up your sleeves and get your hands dirty
- Be responsive
- Deflect credit
- Accept blame and admit to mistakes
- Mingle
- Ask questions and listen to answers

