

SAID ED August 20, 2017

God's Call in Your Heart

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FR. SERGIO

God's love takes many forms and shapes among the members of our community. Here at COTA, we can witness this amazing love in our people, our staff, and our volunteers who work tirelessly to help us fulfill God's will. Many of you silently undertake hundreds of endeavors that are essential to the life of our Church. You serve in many ways that vary from mowing the lawn, to gardening, to decorating of the altar, among many other labors. These ministries are as important as our social outreach, youth ministry, religious education and so on.

Hence, I just want to use this opportunity to express my infinite gratitude and admiration to all of you. Thank you for being part of our Church, for your help and volunteer work. Thank you for being part of our lives and ministry. Working with you, our new volunteers realize that we need to work with the power of the heart to accomplish God's will. It is because of all of you that our Church of the Assumption is a vibrant and thriving place where everybody is welcomed. Every one of you is so important, talented in a unique way, and you bring so much to our Church.

Sometimes we can be easily discouraged because much of the work we do for our family, community and church may go unnoticed but please remember: God never overlooks our efforts. Your help and time are so valuable and we appreciate it. For instance, if one of our volunteers forgets to water the plants of our beautiful garden, the flowers would die and our campus would look like a barren place. Or what will happen if one member of our lockup team forgets to lock the

Church at night? Then, somebody will break into the church, will steal our Lady of the Assumption and we will become the Church of the Assumption without the Assumption. Of course, these are silly examples but my point is clear. I just want to illustrate how important every single ministry is in our community.

Pope Francis reminds us that the first thing necessary to serve in ministry is "a receptive and open heart that listens to the Word of God and the Church." When you answer God's call to serve as one of our ministers we rejoice with the Lord. Indeed this particular call begins at our baptism and is renewed every time we participate in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. Through your ministry and volunteer work you become Eucharistic people and a living testimony of the love of God in our community.

The same Lord who calls us personally to our particular work in life, calls the Church he created and sustains. Today, the Lord is calling those of you who are considering joining one of our ministries and becoming part of us. Please do not be afraid to ask any of our staff members, or Father Ed or myself if you are discerning a particular ministry. We will be more than happy to guide, prepare and help you to fulfill God's call in your heart. I am certain that once you partake in our ministries, you will love discovering how special, important and unique you are.

Sending you millions of prayers,

