




Working for God

What parish staff members and volunteers need to know








I registered for this webinar because...



The Breathing Prayer



Breathe in God's Love...
Breathe out...





What we all need to know about working for God

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We were called

"It wasn't you who chose me, but I who chose you"
(John 15:16)

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God continues to call



- A chance meeting or a fleeting thought
- A new suggestion
- A dream
- A nagging thought
- A question or a comment

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Learning to Listen



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Setting aside time to Listen



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Experiencing the Joys of Working for God



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Expect Miracles





Recognizing Miracles





Miracles Do Happen



**“Prayer works wonders,
we have to believe!”**



Keeping a God Box



- A young mom in the parish is diagnosed with cancer.
- We have a serious disagreement with another staff member or volunteer.
- The diocese says we have to do something that we don't want to do.
- There is a very demanding parishioner who calls constantly.
- And the list goes on and on.



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Remembering



"A memory of our life, of our history, a memory of the moment when we had the grace of meeting Jesus, the memory of all that Jesus has told us. That memory that comes from the heart, that is a grace of the Holy Spirit."

Pope Francis



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You are not alone



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Questions Comments



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**Working for God
can be hazardous to your
spiritual life!**



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The Dangers

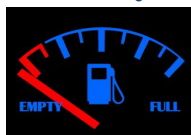


- Getting caught up in our own agendas.
- Not seeing the big picture.
- Neglecting our own physical and emotional needs.
- Getting frustrated with people who irritate us.
- Holding onto anger and resentments.
- Trying to control what is happening.
- Not recognizing that the Holy Spirit is trying to move us in another direction.
- Feeling tired and burned out.
- Not taking the time to let the Lord restore and refresh us.



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You can't give what you don't have!



- Distractions during Mass.
- Cutting short morning prayer.
- Too tired to pray at night.
- Not spending quality time with Scripture.
- Not visiting the Blessed Sacrament



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Refilling your spiritual tank



- Make every moment of your day a prayer by offering the day to God.
- Pray in the shower by imagining that the water is God's love pouring down on you.
- Attend daily Mass.
- Before you start your work day, ask God to bless everyone you will meet.
- Read a short scripture passage and let the words penetrate your soul.
- At lunchtime, pray for people who don't have enough to eat.
- During the afternoon, take a prayer walk.
- In the evening, spend 10 or 15 minutes reading a spiritual book.
- Write in your journal and reflect on the ways God touched your life this day.
- Help other staff members keep their tanks full.



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Blessing a Parish Office



God of love and hospitality,

We ask you to bless all who will come here today. Heal the people who are hurting. Strengthen the people who are weak. Comfort the people who are sorrowful. Calm the people who are upset.

May all who come here know the presence of Christ, experience the joy of his friendship and grow in his love.

Bless our parish staff and the volunteers who will come to help us in our ministry. Fill us with your love. Help us to become instruments of your love to others.

And we ask this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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**The world's ways
are not God's ways**








The World vs. The Gospel

- **Materialism:** *"How much more can I get?"*
- **Consumerism:** *"I am influenced by ads, internet, & media."*
- **Hedonism:** *"If it feels good, do it."*
- **Narcicism:** *"It's all about me!"*
- **Individualism:** *"I don't need to be part of a group."*
- **Relativism:** *"There is no such thing as right and wrong."*
- **Victimism:** *"It's never my fault."*
- **Sensationalism:** *"I am intrigued by the basest behaviors."*
- **Nihilism:** *"Nothing has meaning."*







The Challenges

- We don't have to go to church...
- Mass is boring...
- Parents don't bring kids to Mass...
- Difficulty finding volunteers...
- No sense of ownership...
- People questioning everything you do...
- Difficulty creating a sense of community...






Modern Day Missionaries



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The Temptation to Control



Let Go and Let God



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The Temptation to Negativity



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The Temptation to Discouragement



But Jesus assures us that “all things are possible with God” (Mark 10:27).



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The Holy Spirit will help you



“Difficulties and trials are part of the path that leads to God’s glory, just as they were for Jesus, who was glorified on the cross; we will always encounter them in life! Do not be discouraged! We have the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome these trials!” Pope Francis



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Catherine de Hueck Doherty



An Excerpt from Catherine Doherty’s Spiritual Journal
July 2, 1934




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We need to trust





"I wish to thank you for your work, for the commitment you have to do things well always, even when there is no recognition. So often one does something well and it is not acknowledged. I would like to thank particularly those among you who for the many years have been doing the same type of work -- work that is often hidden; and who seek to do things as they should be done. We know that this is normal, it is simply to do one's duty, but we also know that it's not easy for us human beings; we are not machines -- thank God! I congratulate you who feel just pride in doing the normal everyday things to the best. Thank you! We go forward, in the different realms of work, collaborating together, with patience, seeking to help one another."



Being instruments of God's Love

Questions Comments



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