

Vocation?

Pope St Pius X, speaking to a group of cardinals, said:

What is most necessary at the present time is to have in each parish a group of laymen at the same time **virtuous, enlightened, determined & really apostolic** for which he depended on the FERVOUR OF PRIESTS.

Quoted in *The Soul of the Apostolate* by Dom Chautard, Part Four (f), p. 151

J.R.R. Tolkien:

Eomer: “How shall a man judge what to do in such times?”
Aragorn: “As he has ever judged. **Good and evil have not changed since yesteryear**, nor are they one thing among Elves and Dwarves and other among Men. It is a man’s part to discern them...” [cf. 1 Kings 3:9-12]

The Lord of the Rings, chapter on ‘The Riders of Rohan’.

God speaks to each of us via His Revelation AND in my own unique personal circumstances: so RULE UP THREE COLUMNS and JOT down your thoughts while praying...

NEEDS of the Church and the world: THE ADORATION OF GOD	MEETING THE NEEDS	with MY TALENTS
AUSTRALIA’S MORAL CRISIS is from ignoring God		
Atheism and its militant promotion of Godless immorality and unbelief often by governments, media, academics and schools; atheism is now a default-setting, with religion often reduced to a myth		Natural abilities from genetics
Economic Determinism: dollars \$ trump hearts ♥, profits trump workers hence <i>conditioning</i> to buy the cheapest (and to consume and waste) even when it’s made with slave labour! Ignorance of subsidiarity and solidarity (social justice)		Talents acquired growing-up from father & mother, siblings, relatives, friends
School teachers often brainwashed government schools have become normative Religious and other ‘private’ schools a mistaken extravagance Children & Youth often brainwashed by their surroundings bad companions, ‘stranger danger’ on internet etc hence their lack of Religion, devotion and the cardinal virtues.	MATCH UP WHAT YOU CAN	Further Talents aquired from outside the home: use what you’ve got and acquire more, but remembering that “behaviour is purposive”
Scientists proclaim they have the fact, and Religion is mere feelings coupled to a Philosophy of Relativism that there is no Truth Evolution of man by blind chance Man-made global warming		
Sexual immoralities supported by civil law and considered ‘normal’		
Feminist Philosophy of the interchangeability of the sexes abolition of motherhood, fatherhood, children, family... Contraception, masturbation, fornication, adultery Abortion, possibly criminal offence to oppose it, possibly infanticide Euthanasia, voluntary at first, then extermination of unwanted Marriage to be redefined (Orwell’s 1984, Huxley’s <i>Brave New World</i>) to include same-sex unions and further possibilities of bigamy, incest, polygamy, bestiality		WORKS OF MERCY Hungry Thirsty Naked Stranger Sick Imprisoned Dead and Sinners Ignorant Doubting Afflicted Grieving Bearing wrongs Forgiving injuries Praying for living & dead
CHURCH PROBLEMS: all the above, plus:		
The Trinity and the Incarnation of Christ must be central in our devotions		
Defeating Satan, Sin and Selfishness: Worldliness: Greed, Sloth The Lusts of the Flesh: Lust, Gluttony The Pride of Life: Pride, Anger, Envy		VIRTUES with God’s grace: Faith Hope Charity and Prudence Justice Fortitude Temperance
Restoration of Catechetics, Confession, Conception (no contraception!) and the Mass Liturgy in parishes		
Helping the Lefebvrists in the Society of St Pius X; the Separated Brethren in Protestant communities; non-Christians, Modern Pagans and atheists.		
THE SHORTAGE OF LAY APOSTLES in family life, specially full-time homemaking mothers and fathers active in family, workplace and society		
SHORTAGE of good PRIESTS and RELIGIOUS and the conversion of the imperfect...		

“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” → → →

“Here am I! Send me.”

Reluctant Prophets

MOSES

told God the job was too difficult:

But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." (Exodus 3:11-12)

Then Moses answered, "But behold, they will not believe me or listen to my voice, for they will say, 'The LORD did not appear to you.'" (Exodus 4:1)

But Moses said to the LORD, "Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either heretofore or since Thou hast spoken to Thy servant; but I am slow of speech and of tongue." Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him dumb, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." But he said, "Oh, my Lord, send, I pray, some other person." Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and He said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well; and behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you he will be glad in his heart. And you shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth; and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth, and will teach you what you shall do. He shall speak for you to the people; and he shall be a mouth for you, and you shall be to him as God." (Exodus 4:10-16)

Then Moses turned again to the LORD and said, O LORD, why hast thou done evil to this people? Why didst thou ever send me? For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he has done evil to this people, and thou hast not delivered thy people at all. Exodus 5:22-23
But Moses said to the LORD, "Behold, I am of uncircumcised lips; how then shall Pharaoh listen to me?" And the LORD said to Moses, "See, I make you as God to Pharaoh; and Aaron your brother shall be your prophet..." (Exodus 6:30; 7:1)

ISAIAH

felt he lacked the qualifications:

And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then flew one of the seraphim to me, having in his hand a burning coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin forgiven." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." And he said, "Go, and say to this people: Hear and hear, but do not understand; see and see, but do not perceive." Isa 6:5-9

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

...tempted as we are, yet without sin:

Thy will be done. Matthew 6:10
And going a little farther He fell on His face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as Thou wilt." Matthew 26:39

JEREMIAH

felt his inadequacy

Now the word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, I am only a youth; for to all to whom I send you you shall go, and whatever I command you you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put forth His hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Behold, I have put My words in your mouth. See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant." (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

ANANIAS

(not the Ananias in Acts 5:1-5)

thought God did not know His own business...

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man [Saul], how much evil he has done to Thy saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Thy name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine to carry My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name." (Acts 9:13-16)

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"FRODO"

Frodo: "I wish it need not have happened in my time."

Gandalf: "So do I, and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."

... ..

FRODO: "What a pity Bilbo did not stab that vile creature [Gollum] when he had a chance!"

GANDALF: "Pity? It was pity that stayed his hand. Pity and mercy..."

FRODO: "He [Gollum] deserves death."

GANDALF: "Deserves it! I daresay he does. Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgement. ... My heart tells me that he [Gollum] has some part to play before the end; and when that comes, the pity of Bilbo may rule the fate of many — yours not least."

... ..

FRODO: "Why was I chosen?"

GANDALF: "Such questions cannot be answered. You may be sure that it was not for merit that others do not possess: not for power or wisdom, at any rate. But you have been chosen, and you must therefore use such strength and heart and wits as you have."

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*
chapter on 'The Shadow of the Past'

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AND HIS GREATEST DISCIPLE SAID...

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it done to me, according to Thy word.

O Mary, Mother of Christ the High Priest,
obtain for me the most important grace
of knowing my vocation in life.