

## **New Year –Call to Service**

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About two weeks ago we had a group of visitors at our diocese, it was a group of four young men discerning their vocation with the Claretian Missionaries of the USA Province, they were accompanied the Claretian Vocations Director Fr. Sahaya Rubiston, CMF. The group visited different areas of service in our community and met different people in ministry, they engaged with the groups by becoming active participants, from building benches for one of the “campos,” to working a day at Catholic Charities, working alongside the Homeless Ministry, visiting and engaging with community members at the “campos,” along with other activities. It was an experience to get to know some of the needs of our community and meet people who serve those needs. and to discern their own call to Service. Through the days they discerned their own call to service and their vocation.

Although I could probably write this article and tell you everything the group did, I want to direct you to the people in the background who made the visit of this group possible and allowed them to have a firsthand experience of some of the realities of our community.

Putting together any event can have many challenges, however, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit and God’s greater plan for our mission can allow us to let God be the one who guides any plan, project or assignment that we set ourselves to put together. As I began to put things together, I knew that I was only one puzzle piece for this project and that a community coming together would make it happen.

As I began to call and ask people of their help, I began to witness a “yes” without hesitation, people were ready to serve and give of their time and talents for the service of others. However, it is their act of service and love towards others and their unwavering “yes” is what encompasses this project. It is amazing to see how we can come together as a community and journey alongside one another, with no strings attached, just with the purpose to serve.

As we begin the New Year, there are many things that we might write in our to-do-lists, many projects that we want to accomplish, goals that we want to meet, things that we would like to do, and even places that we want to visit. However, have you thought about adding what your call to service is to your list?

As you go discern on your call to service, remember that everyone has something to share with others, and everyone has a place, you might not think that what you can do is a

talent, but you would be surprised to find out that it is what you have that is needed in our parishes and organizations.

As the year begins, I invite you to add service to your lists of things to do this New Year, you do not have to know exactly what you want to do or what ministry or organization you want to be part of. Take your time to explore and find where God is calling your for service.