

## **Gary Roosa Called and Gifted Q&A**

### **What made you decide to sign up for Called and Gifted?**

People talk about having a bucket list – things they'd like to do before they die. I like to encourage people to make a spiritual bucket list. Becoming more active in the church is on my spiritual bucket list. My wife and I really enjoyed Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, and we were looking for other activities to become involved in.

### **Describe how the Called and Gifted program was (or was not) what you expected.**

I really didn't know much about it. I prayed to the Holy Spirit and asked to be led to wherever I could learn and grow spiritually. Right from the start I felt comfortable; it wasn't intimidating at all. Everyone in the class was warm and welcoming. We shared our struggles, prayed for and encouraged each other. I always looked forward to going to Called and Gifted.

### **Did you learn anything new about yourself and your spiritual gifts after going through the discernment process?**

Absolutely. After learning about the different charisms and having my one-on-one meeting, I ended up in a whole different direction from what I originally thought my charisms were. The process of discernment was so interesting. I learned I have the charisms of intercessory prayer and encouragement.

When thinking about my life, I realize over the years I've experienced the fruit (feedback) from intercessory prayer and never realized it. I have been praying for two friends with Leukemia, and they are now in remission. They tell me how much they appreciate my prayers and ask me to keep on praying!

Another example of prayers being remarkably answered was when my parents died. I had prayed they would no longer suffer and have a peaceful death, and they did. I thought, if my prayers helped them, maybe they could help others. Knowing my charism has created an awareness to pray for more people.

I have been able to use my charisms to bless others through my volunteer work with Meals on Wheels. I see a lot of people in sad situations, and I pray for them every day. I have seen miraculous changes in them – from increased mobility to a new willingness to attend church. One woman, who is 99 years young, was initially very unhappy with me when I delivered her meals. Through encouragement and prayer, we are now the best of buddies! She can't wait for me to show up. She tells me she goes to church and prays twice per day. It's very rewarding to see first-hand the fruit of my charisms.

### **Is there something God led you to do that you never imagined for yourself before?**

I wouldn't have been doing any of this. I serve as an alter server at funerals, and I just feel different now. The mass itself feels different and has so much meaning. At funerals I enjoy praying for the

families and it's heartwarming to listen to stories of their loved ones. It makes me wonder what will be said about me when I die.

**In what ways has the Called and Gifted program impacted your life?**

My perspective has changed dramatically. I have become a more patient person than I ever was before. The Called and Gifted program changed my whole outlook on life. It helped me answer, why am I here and what is my purpose? I feel at peace.

**How important is a daily, active prayer life to understand where God is working in your life, to discern God's will, and align your heart with His purpose?**

It's crucial. You must pray to really experience God's direction throughout Called and Gifted. You can't go in and just read, you must pray throughout the whole process. The Holy Spirit is so important – ask for guidance every day and have no preconceived notions of what your charisms may be.

**What would you say to someone who is considering signing up for Called and Gifted?**

I would say it might be one of the best experiences they could have in their spiritual life, and it may open a lot of doors. It did for me.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Go into Called and Gifted with an open mind about what direction it may take you. You may learn something new about yourself, your spiritual gifts, and your overall perspective on life.