

Leaving a Legacy of Living Your Passion!

It's September, which means it's back-to-school time! If you are on any kind of social media sites, you have seen those precious back-to-school pictures! Perhaps you are the photographer or you're the grandparent anxiously waiting to see your pride and joy! It's an exciting time of year and to document this special time, we see great photos! Many of the pictures have elementary-aged children holding a sign that identifies their grade followed with, "When I grow up, I want to be _____." That blank is filled in with the words, "doctor, architect, fireman, teacher, policeman or zookeeper" to name only a few. You can hear the excitement when that little person shouts, "I want to be a nurse! I want to make people feel better, and I want to give shots!" We can certainly learn a thing or two from these young souls who without a doubt when they are asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" – they are immediately ready to exclaim proudly what they want to be and why.

As parents, guardians and grandparents, how are we encouraging and setting the example for our children to live their passion? When they tell us about their career aspirations, do we respond with, "You won't make a lot of money doing that job..." or "That's REALLY hard work... are you sure you want to do that?" Or do we take interest to learn more and ask, "What do you think you will love about that job? What God-given gifts will you use in your work?" By giving positive affirmations, we instill confidence and courage – key ingredients to living our calling.

Our sons learned early that hard work is necessary to achieve goals; and

they also learned that what you do for a living, you will do for a long time. We impressed upon them the importance of taking pride in what they do their work, and they

learned to be prepared and 'well-equipped'. They were encouraged to continue their education, read, learn another language, study abroad, travel and be lifetime learners. Most importantly, they were taught that success is using and sharing the gifts which God had entrusted them with. I often reminded them, "If you love what you do, that love will come shining through!"

Not all of us are called to 'public service' but the opportunity to serve can be achieved in many ways. Volunteering

your time in a soup kitchen, building a Habitat for Humanity home, cleaning the church, giving financially or donating essential items to those less fortunate to offer only a few suggestions. We can share a smile, open our ears to listen, open our hearts and show compassion, or bring calm during someone's storm by simply praying for them.

As we begin this school year, signifying a fresh start and new beginning, I invite you to take a moment and consider your work, your calling. Do you love it – is it rewarding? If not, why? And what can you do differently to make it rewarding? Mahatma Gandhi reminds us, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." If you aren't receiving this in your day-to-day work, find it through volunteering, through giving back – you won't be disappointed.

Written by Bernadette Lawson, member of our Stewardship Committee

