

THE OVERLOOKED PIECE

“Called” in so many directions

by Mary Sharon Moore

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I came away from a recent talk feeling a little exhausted. It was a perfectly fine theological talk, full of exhortation to become the people God desires us to be.

But the exhaustion came when I started to add up all the ways the speaker reminded me that I am called: Called to pray, called to take action, called to be a witness; called to give, to share, to listen, to teach, to bind up wounds. Called, in short, to do it all.

We easily feel “called” in many directions, but we are anointed in one: To become fully the person whom God has desired for all eternity, working the miracles for which each has been gifted. That anointing began in baptism. Too easily we feel fragmented and overwhelmed, within our Christian role, with all we are “called” to fulfill.

Anointing, however, is actual empowerment in the Holy Spirit, oriented toward action which is focused, effective, healing, and spiritually fruitful. We are anointed not only to be miracle workers but to be a community of miracle workers. (Simply put, miracles

are those events that would not make sense if God did not exist.) Miracles, Jesus reminds us, are not private events but public, and evoke a public witness to God’s power.

We are the anointed miracle workers today, communities of miracle workers, anointed with particular gifts, or charisms, which enable us to accomplish what could not occur if God did not exist. Imagine your parish being a center of miracle-working, where the reign of God is actually restored, revealed, and celebrated!

You can dance yourself dizzy being “called” to this and “called” to that, and end up exhausted with purpose anxiety. It’s good to slow down and remember that you, personally, have been anointed for one thing within your Christian life.

“Working miracles” is part of your vocational job description. It also should be the understood subtext of your parish’s mission statement.

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