

Boasting in God! He is my Dad!

How many people do you know who really boast about themselves? The few that do are often covering over their own insecurity. Most of us don't really, at the root of it, believe we are much good at anything. We may be good at our job, but that is training, a good Mother or Father, not all would say so, but again its training and practice. Good musicians, artists, creators are rare, but then they say that's talent, so we say they are talents we don't have.

When I worked in Germany over several years giving retreats and conferences to clergy and laity with Fr Sean Conaty, one thing they constantly reminded us of was that it's not good to Boast, Germans never boasted, it's a sin!

St Paul tells us 22 times in his letters, to boast in God.

When I was young, I didn't believe I would achieve much, I never received any praise or encouragement. When I told my Mother that I had passed the scholarship, the only girl in my class, she took me to Church to confess the sin of making things up!

It was not until after I was married and found God in my life I thankfully, to my surprise, with the help of others, I discovered that I was loveable, I didn't need to hide away anymore, God was my creator, my Dad. He wasn't a Pop Star or a multi-millionaire, God created the whole world, from every beetle to every star and planet and to cap it all God made me. He Created me, planned me before time began, planned when I would be needed in the world to assist Him in bringing about His plan, to co-create with Him, be part of bringing this World eventually into His dream, for it, for me, for us.

He called me by name, not Pat or Patricia as Mother insisted on calling me, my name is my gifting, my role, the gifting he gave me, only me, to bring about this world, to co-work with Him and many other people who discover the dream. Many I have worked alongside, especially in parishes etc., do not fully accept their calling, their gifting, and their sending to change the World as one together. They are shy to come forward, to believe that they could be part of the plan.

The church teaches us that the gifts given by the Holy Spirit and the fruits that develop as we use them, grow in the gift of grace once we believe and accept. We all have gifts inherited from our family, gifts and skills acquired in schools and training and study, totally unknown to our parents and families generations ago. We also have natural gifts, which have risen from ourselves. God uses all of these in me. I can have the same gift as someone else but when I use it and it arises through me, I don't use it the same way as others. This is why a community, teams, are important.

A rainbow is made up of seven beautiful colours, each made up of different hues and shades, one colour missing, there is no rainbow! This is science! One hue or shade missing there is no colour of that name. One drop into the ocean moves the entire Ocean! We each are needed to make the whole, the vision, the call. The plan.

I have a role, part of a team. Working with God my Father, my Dad, my Christian family, the people in the world, building God's dream – we need to rise, witness, call, make a list of who I am and what I am in my gifting under every heading. Thank God for who I am.

Can I do this? Will I do this? Where will I begin? I will seek my name, ask God to show me, I will begin!!! baptised, confirmed, called gifted, fed and sent, by Word and Sacrament. I will seek to talk and share with others, listen to their story, walk together. Let's Begin!

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