



## **Gerard Calderon: Canadian Witness to Faith**



My name is Gerard Calderon and I am an alumnus of Cardinal Leger Catholic School (Class of 2000) and Blessed Pope John Paul II Secondary School (Class of 2004) in Scarborough. I attended York University in Toronto and completed undergraduate degrees in Psychology, as well as Kinesiology and Health Science. I previously worked for the Archdiocese of Toronto's Office of Catholic Youth for five years and am currently slated to begin studies towards a Bachelor of Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) this September.

**If you had to create a Catholic Resume, which highlighted ways you are a WITNESS to the Catholic faith, what would be on it?**

My Catholic resume would have two key sections. The first section would highlight my reception of the Sacraments of Initiation, because it was through these sacraments that I was incorporated into the life and mission of Jesus and his Church, as well as received my call as a disciple. The second section would reflect how I have chosen to use my unique God-given gifts to respond to this wondrous call to witness to God's love.

**What kind of difference do you hope to make in living a life based on Jesus' teachings?**

"I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) By God coming down among us as a human being, Jesus shows us what it truly means to be human and to have life. It is my hope that by trying to faithfully live according to Jesus' example, I will be able to show the immense joy and freedom that comes through Christian living and help draw others closer to God. I want people to realize that it is in God, where we are able to find our real purpose and happiness.

**What advice do you have for a young Catholic finding ways to express their faith?**

Here are some basic, personal steps that I would recommend to youth:

**STEP 1:** Regularly nurture your relationship with God, particularly through prayer and the celebration of the sacraments. Stay close to the One, who loves you and gives you life!

**STEP 2:** Realize that everything you have comes from God and genuinely desire to thank God for all that is done for you. Don't just thank God in words, but by your very life.

**STEP 3:** Recognize your God-given gifts and talents and see them as tools to help you express your love for God and the Faith.

**STEP 4:** Look for opportunities at your home, school, parish and community to serve, which tap into your gifts and talents. They don't need to be extraordinary acts but ones that show love for God and your neighbour.

**STEP 5:** Repeat steps 1 – 4. It is easy to become busy and lose sight of why we do the things we do. Keep your faith in God as the centre of all that you do!