

How to Work for the Church *and* *Not Lose Your Faith*

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My Story *Your Story*

Each of us has a unique story that brought us to our current role in the Church.

Our Stories

As many backgrounds as there are people.

- » Second career after working in the for-profit world.
- » Long time church volunteer, then joined staff.
- » Have always worked for the Church.
- » Worked for a parish, then moved to the Diocese.
- » Worked for another nonprofit organization before working for the Church.
- » Ordained.
- » Religious.
- » Work in parish/school office, but not for pay.





Why Work for the Church? *The Good*

The best aspects of being
employed by the Catholic
Church.

The Good

The benefits of working for the Church.

- » Daily Mass
- » Learning More About Your Faith
- » Being Able to Express What You Believe at Work
- » Decorating Your Work Space with Statues, Religious Artwork
- » Working with Like-Minded People
- » Getting to know Priests, Deacons and Religious on a more personal basis.
- » Prayer Throughout the Day, Before Meetings
- » Staff Retreats
- » Extra Days Off (Holy Days of Obligation)
- » Doing the Lord's Work/Serving the Greater Good



The Not So Good *Drawbacks of Working for the Church*

What aspects make it like a regular job?



116 DAYS
WITHOUT
A COMPLIMENT



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The Not So Good

The drawbacks of working for the Church.

- » It still has the issues of a secular job – deadlines, people not meeting expectations, petty office situations, paperwork, budgets.
- » Lower compensation than similar secular jobs.
- » The Church Hierarchy.
- » The clergy abuse scandal.
- » Limited resources result in overwork and/or insufficient tools to do your job.
- » The Church moves slowly.
- » Silos between departments – stewardship, development, catechesis, liturgy, finance/administration, chancery, etc.
- » Blurring of boundaries between your work and church life. (The feeling of being always “on the job.”)
- » Thinking that secular businesses operate like we do. (Being in a Catholic bubble.)



How to Keep Your Faith *Survival Skills*

What helps keep you
grounded?

Survival Skills

How do you keep going?

» Nurture Your Faith

- Keep your focus on Jesus Christ.
- Don't skip out on staff retreats and daily Mass.
- Participate in at least one spiritual retreat each year.
- Get a spiritual director.
- Continually learn about your faith.
- Pray, especially for our priests.

» Life Balance


- Attend Mass at a different parish than the one where you work
- Be disciplined in your life balance – family, friends, work, volunteer, spiritual, hobbies, travel, health/wellness.





Survival Skills


- » Get involved in ICSC and your region.
 - Attend diocesan and regional gatherings.
 - Online discussion groups.
 - Attend ICSC conference and network with those you meet throughout the year.
- » Participate in non-Catholic organizations.
 - Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)
 - Grant Professionals Association
 - National Association of Charitable Gift Planners
- » Network
 - With people in other parishes in your Diocese.
 - With people you meet through ICSC and other organizations.
- » Love God's people!
 - The people of God are the reason for our work. Love them. Serve them. Inspire them. Be inspired by them.

Thank You

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