

opusdei.org

“If you want to be useful, serve”

You too have a professional vocation which spurs you on. Well, that spur is the hook to fish for men. Rectify your intention, then, and be sure you acquire all the professional prestige you can for the service of God and of souls. The Lord counts on this too. (Furrow, 491)

29 January

And so, as the motto of your work, I can give you this one: *If you want to*

be useful, serve. For, in the first place, in order to do things properly, you must know *how* to do them. I cannot see the integrity of a person who does not strive to attain professional skills and to carry out properly the task entrusted to his care. It's not enough to want to do good; we must know how to do it. And, if our desire is real, it will show itself in the effort we make to use the right methods, finishing things well, achieving human perfection.

But human service and technique, our knowledge of our job, should have a feature which was basic to St Joseph's work and should be so for every Christian: the spirit of service, the desire to contribute to the well-being of other people. Joseph's work was not self-centred, even though his active life made him a strong and forceful personality. When he worked, he was aware that he was carrying out God's will; he

was thinking of his people, of Jesus and Mary, and of everyone in Nazareth. (Christ is passing by, 50-51)

pdf | document generated
automatically from [https://opusdei.org/
en-au/dailytext/if-you-want-to-be-
useful-serve/](https://opusdei.org/en-au/dailytext/if-you-want-to-be-useful-serve/) (20/03/2026)