



fully human  
the special call of special needs

*I was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame. I was a father to the needy... -Job 29:15,16*

Families whose members endure chronic physical and mental challenges are “*acquainted with grief*.” It’s natural to want our loved ones to have healthy lives. Yet when we dig beneath the surface of unmet expectations, we can find purpose and even our lives’ most honorable call, in these “special needs.” The Lord asks us to be *the eyes* for our blind sibling, *the voice* for our nonverbal son, *the feet* by which our paralyzed mother is brought to the Eucharist. Every time we care for them, we are Christ for them.

The beautiful surprise is that Jesus cares for us through them too: to be *eyes* that see what is most important in life, *the voice* of the Holy Spirit in their primal cries for comfort and belonging, and *the feet* of those pierced by the rejection of this world. Christ came, and comes, to us as a Suffering Servant. When we embrace vulnerabilities with hope, we discover His true Beauty, and, what it means to be *Fully Human*.