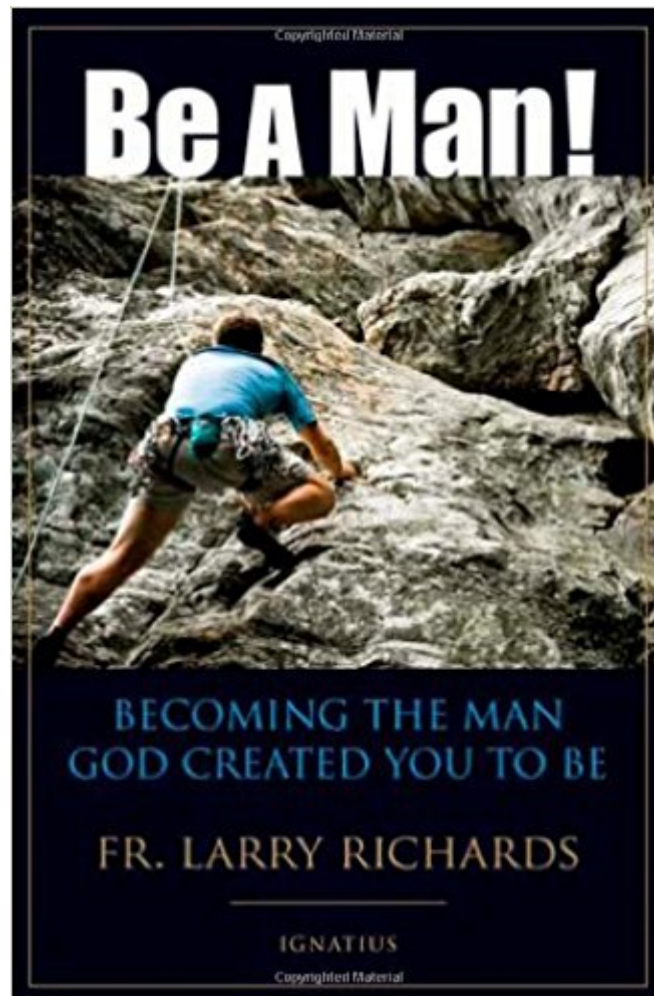




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Be A Man!: Becoming The Man God Created You To Be



Synopsis

Men are rediscovering the importance of the spiritual life. And Father Larry Richards is helping them do it. While some writers apply a one-size-fits-all approach to the Christian life, Father Richards draws on his many years of ministry and his own experience as a man to inspire other men as men. In *Be a Man!*, he recounts his struggles to learn true manhood, as well as the inspiring stories of others he has served in his decades as a priest. He tells men how to focus on the right goal, how to live as a beloved son of God, of the need to acknowledge one's faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to be a man of true love and of wisdom, to appreciate properly the differences between men and women, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world. Not preachy but direct, Father Richards challenges men to be strong, without putting on a mask of false strength or machismo. He calls men to admit their weaknesses and limitations, while urging them to find strength in faith and genuine love to overcome their sins and faults. Although a celibate priest, he minces no words when it comes to the place of sexuality--for the unmarried man as well as for the married man. He shows that true manliness is not opposed to love but thrives on it. Father Richards stresses that a relationship with Christ reveals the meaning of a man's life and his identity as a man. He inspires men to become the true heroes they long to be--men of authentic courage, compassion and integrity. This is a highly readable book for men by a man who knows how to talk to men about the things that matter most.

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Customer Reviews

"Father Larry talks straight to men in his own manly style. He pulls no spiritual punches--I don't think

he knows how to! He pokes, pushes, sometimes verbally slaps men into being God's men, all with an obvious love for them and faith in their ability to persevere to heaven." --Dr. Ray

Guarendi, a radio host and author "Be a Man" is a must-read for all men who are serious about strengthening their relationship with God. This exceptional book speaks clearly and directly, challenging men to live their faith with courage and conviction. "Be a Man" is a spiritual wake-up call that offers a refreshingly honest presentation of what it means to be a man of God. With a unique blend of humor, passion, and frankness that has become his trademark style, Fr. Larry Richards explores how a Christ-centered male spirituality fosters growth in holiness, and inspires men to become loving servants of their wives, families, and the Church." --Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Author, Behold the Man

A gifted and captivating speaker, preacher, retreat master and author, Father Larry Richards holds the answer to some of life's most profound questions. He speaks from experience as a pastor of an inner city parish, a high school chaplain, a counselor and evangelist. Fr. Larry Richards has directed hundreds of Retreats, Parish Missions and Conferences for young and old alike. His inspirational talks and presentations, always authentic and enthusiastic, have changed the hearts, minds, and lives of millions of listeners worldwide. He continues to accept invitations for speaking engagements all over the United States and in Canada and has recently traveled abroad to continue his mission of evangelization.

This is a great book that will challenge you to live up to Biblical standards of holiness. Fr. Larry Richards is a dynamic speaker and the passion comes through in his book as well. I first saw him preach on the EWTN cable network. He is a priest with a parish in Pennsylvania. He is a down-to-earth speaker with homespun wisdom. He is highly-educated, but he has the common touch and has an exceptional ability to communicate with people from all walks of life. Fr. Richards preaches an uncompromising message that is true to the Catholic faith. He doesn't mince words and he challenges men to behave in a Christ-like manner at all times. He encourages prayer and Bible reading. He points out that Godly men should take a servant's role in leadership in their families, the church, and the workplace. Fr. Richards masterfully uses Scripture to back up his points. He gives relevant and compelling personal anecdotes from his years in the ministry. He clearly delineates church teaching on the definition of sin in an era of compromise. He doesn't accept excuses for failure to live up to God's standards. He believes in forgiveness and grace, but he doesn't allow for the enabling of sinful behavior. I am a Protestant and I greatly enjoyed the

Catholic book. I am of the belief that our respective faiths have more in common in Christ than differences. I am not in agreement on every doctrinal issue, but I came away very impressed with this man's knowledge of the Bible. He gave sound advice on a number of issues dealing with living a practical life of holiness. I came away challenged to redouble my efforts in living up to the revealed standards in God's word. Fr. Richards especially touched me with his plea to be a man of forgiveness. Fr. Richards is true to the Christian faith. He is a man of God who has touched many lives. He has the gift of wisdom and discernment. He is a master motivator and encourager. He will challenge you to transform your life. He will encourage you to pick yourself off the mat when you fall short of the mark. This is a man with a good moral compass and you won't go wrong by following his advice on matters of practical holiness.

A good book for every man to read especially for those trying to understand their identity in Christ. This is his first book that he's written. His talks from Catholic Light house media are also good, but know that if you've listened to his talks or read his other book "Surrender!" or his men's Bible that he repeats his points but in different ways. I am currently leading a group of guys through this as a book group and they're enjoying it and growing closer to Christ through it. He provides lots of scriptural context for what he's talking about as well as numerous personal stories but in such a way that says "I'm a smart ass but cut the crap" in a way that men can understand it. Now this book is directed at men but he notes at the beginning that women can read this book and understand men more but everything will be written and catered to a man's point of view.

I bought this book for my son who wanted it, and when it arrived I decided to preview it myself to see if it were appropriate for the other men on my Christmas list. I ordered six more copies! Since then I have ordered three more! The book is great! This book is very easy reading, as you feel that Fr. Larry is standing right in front of you, talking right to you. He addresses the readers as "gentlemen," but you could substitute your own name very easily to make it seem like Fr. Larry is speaking to you personally. Fr. Larry substantiates almost everything he says with Scripture. I was impressed to find passages from Scripture on almost every page. Anecdotes - sometimes humorous - and stories from Father's own life, stories and quotes of the saints, popes and other Christians like Billy Graham, all support the point he is trying to make in each chapter. No one could ever accuse this book of being boring! This book is very practical too. At the end of each of the ten chapters is a list of three tasks to be accomplished, along with three questions for reflection and discussion. At the end of the book the thirty tasks are recapped with checkboxes so you can check

them off as you accomplish them. Although this book was written for men, there are several chapters which could apply to women also. Father admittedly suggests that chapter nine about holiness is not for just men, as we are ALL called to be holy. I also found the chapters about repentance and the Holy Spirit very helpful, as again, women also are called to repent and to live a life in the Holy Spirit. I especially liked Father's explanations of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, since many people do not understand those gifts. So, women, I suggest you buy this book for the man or men in your life, and do as I did and read it first. But don't read it in public, because if someone sees the title and sees you reading it, they may get the wrong idea! Seriously though, if every man who reads this book would do exactly what it says, and become the man God created him to be, this world would be a much better place. June Klins

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