

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 7. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame.



Deacon Daniel Fairweather, is a husband and father, child and brother. Dan works with the youth group, with engaged couples and with families having children baptized. Deacon Dan also works with the annulment ministry, is involved in St. John Pastoral Council as a representative of the Spirituality and Growth commission, and is part of the CAFÉ (Catholic Adult Formation and Education) team.

Isaiah 50 stuck with me because the passage begins with these words: “The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue.” I actually took that quote while I was in formation for the diaconate and it has been on my desk at work to remind me that part of my vocation was based on the fact that since I was in grade school people have recognized the fact that I could get in front of people and speak. I have always recognized that as a gift God has given me that maybe a lot of people do not have.

The other part of that quote talks about setting my face like flint and that is another part of my personal chemistry. I tend not to be very emotional and I’ve always thought maybe I’d like to be somebody that can hold it all together. That particular line about setting my face like flint, in spite of all the suffering of the Suffering Servant, was something that has always struck me as something that I feel I should do. It’s not so much that you’re not showing emotion, but what I feel I should do is offer a positive projection so I’m not dragging other people down when they see the way I deal with suffering.

I think that was part of what attracted people to Jesus. Because of his relationship with God even at the worst time, He could still lift up others. For instance, look at what he did for the thief on the cross. Jesus was dying and yet he took the time to comfort another human being.

Another example of someone that showed that side was Pope John Paul, II. At the end of his life he [the Holy Father] was still showing the world that message. Even though he was feeble and in poor health he knew he still had purpose, he still had a mission. He was an example of how valuable suffering is. As there is more talk about euthanasia, I felt that he spoke strongly to the other side: that all human life has value.

If you are interested in having a child baptized, are in need of an annulment or would like more information about annulments, please contact the parish offices at 653-2377.

If you are interested in being part of the youth group at St. John Church, please contact Paul Schlegelmilch at: pschlegelmilch@stjohndavison.org

You can learn more about CAFÉ by contacting Elaine Ouelette at: euquette@stjohndavison.org