

FINDING A WAY TO THE WAY

DOES ANYONE KNOW THE ROLE OF A DEACON?? *THE SALVATION OF SOULS*, THAT'S RIGHT, IT IS NOT JUST KEEPING OUT OF FATHER MARK'S HAIR!

BUT ISN'T THIS THE ROLE OF EVERY CATHOLIC, TO SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS AND EVANGELIZE?

MY GOOD FRIEND, DENNIS PELLMAN HAD A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HIS NEW QUEST IN LIFE IS TO BRING CATHOLICS BACK TO THE CHURCH, BY PERSONAL INVITATION, AS A SPIRITUAL BUDDY OR PARTNER.

LAST MONTH WE DISTRIBUTED INFORMATION CARDS AT ALL MASSES, AS PART OF THE CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY TO *WELCOME THE STRANGER*. TODAY YOU WILL RECEIVE THESE CARDS AGAIN. WE ALL HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER, A FRIEND OR COWORKER, WHO WE KNOW IS NOT ATTENDING CHURCH. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO GET THEM BACK TO CHURCH BY YOUR PERSONAL INVITATION.

IT SOON WILL BE EASTER, THE PINNACLE OF OUR CHURCH YEAR. WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START: BY HAVING THEM COME BACK TO MASS REGULARLY. MANY FEEL DISAFFECTED. AND SOME MAY FEEL THAT THERE FORMER LIVES ARE KEEPING THEM AWAY.

FIRST INVITE THEM TO MASS. BRING THEM WITH YOU AS YOUR SPIRITUAL BUDDY. FOR THOSE WISHING RECONCILIATION, THERE WILL BE AN ARCHDIOCESE WIDE RECONCILIATION SERVICE, "THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU", FEBRUARY 23RD 7-9 PM IN ALL CHURCHES IN THE ARCHDIOCESE. BRING THEM WITH YOU TO THIS SERVICE; IT WILL BE GOOD FOR THE BOTH OF YOU. ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN YOU AT MASS ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND FOR SURE, OFFER TO GO TO MASS WITH THEM ON EASTER.

LET ME SHOW YOU HOW THIS WORKS: MY PATIENT RICHARD, LOST HIS WIFE THREE YEARS AGO. THEY ALWAYS WENT TO MASS TOGETHER. AS HE TOLD ME THIS STORY, I INVITED HIM TO COME TO ONE OF THE MASSES I WAS PREACHING AT. HE IS NOW REGULARLY BACK TO MASS.

AS FAR AS A SPIRITUAL PARTNER, MY SON IS JOINING ME AT MASS. YES, EVEN DEACONS HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS THAT ARE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH. I ADMIT IT TAKES SOME WILLINGNESS TO VENTURE OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE.

YOU MAY ASK YOURSELF, WHY SHOULD I GET INVOLVED IN THIS PROGRAM? HOW ABOUT THE SATISFACTION THAT YOU WERE THE CATALYST TO HAVE SOMEONE COME BACK TO THE CHURCH, WITH A CHANCE FOR EVERLASTING LIFE? HOW POWERFUL IS THAT?

OUR FAITH IS A GREAT ONE. OUR CHURCH IS A GREAT ONE. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR GOD IS A GREAT ONE. WHY WOULDN'T WE WANT TO SHARE THIS GIFT?

IN FATHER MARK'S HOMILY LAST WEEK HE TALKED ABOUT HOW THERE ARE ACTORS AND ROLE PLAYERS IN GOD'S PLAY OF LIFE, THERE ARE NO STARS. BUT I THINK BRINGING SOME ONE BACK TO THE CHURCH, MAY JUST MAKE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR AN ACADEMY AWARD. THAT ACADEMY BEING IN HEAVEN!

SO WHAT IF THEY START ASKING YOU A BUNCH OF CHURCHY QUESTIONS YOU CANT ANSWER? I WILL TAKE THE LEAD, TAKE THE HEAT OFF OF YOU, SO DON'T LET THAT HOLD YOU BACK.

"FINDING A WAY TO THE WAY". WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN MAKE THIS WORK. THANKS, AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU

DEACON MARC