



## **Sal Badali: Witness to Faith**



I am Sal Badali, a retired religion teacher/Chaplaincy team leader with the TCDSB for 30 years. Most of my years were spent at Fr. Henry Carr and Fr. John Redmond. I attended elementary and high school in the TCDSB as well. I am happily married to Catherine, and we have 3 wonderful sons. I am actively involved in my parish, St. Mary, Star of the Sea in Mississauga.

### **What kind of difference do you hope to make in living a life based on Jesus' teachings?**

My early parish priests and my parents were great examples of a joyful faith. During my career, I had the opportunity to grow in my faith through my involvement with other teachers who likewise were very fine examples. As a teacher/chaplain, I tried to give back by offering opportunities for young people to use their gifts, such as being involved with World Youth Day. I always tried to be positive in my outlook. I was fortunate to participate on awareness trips to Haiti, Jamaica and the Philippines. I enjoy volunteering, such as helping out at Canadian Food for Children ("Dr. Simone's"), where we fill a container everyday with food and other supplies for missions in the developing world. I have seen the need, and I know how important it is to help. While I find it easier to be a "do-er", I try to have an active prayer life to make time for God to speak to me (and vice-versa), and because at times my prayers for others may be the best (and perhaps) only way for me to help. I feel certain that Jesus hears my prayers, and others have told me how much they appreciate them. I would be happy to know that others are praying for me!

At Canadian Food for Children, student groups come every day as part of their retreat day. I usually work with them, finding them jobs at the warehouse while challenging them to think about the importance of our work and who we are helping. At the same time, I try to make it fun. I tell them about the many people who volunteer at the charity who contribute in so many ways, big and small. I hope the students will recognize that God has blessed them with gifts too, and that they are called to share them. I work hard myself, and try to set a good example.

**What advice do you have for a young Catholic finding ways to express their faith?**

I have been blessed abundantly in my life (the glass is definitely more than “half-full”), and I feel that God has asked me to share those blessings. I think that most of us have lots of blessings, but sometimes we need to be reminded of them. I would advise young people not to worry about needing to have answers for life’s big questions, but to continue to pray for themselves (and others!), use their gifts (no matter how small they might think they are), and trust that God will look after them.