



Steve De Quintal: Teacher Witness to Faith



I'm Steve De Quintal and I'm honoured to be a teacher at Bishop Marrocco Thomas Merton. I am the proud father to Faith, Simon, Gabriel (students at St. Helen's Catholic Elementary School), Joseph and Sarah (future students at St. Helen's).

Husband to Maria Oliveira, who is actively involved at St. Sebastian's Church, and son of Maria and Joe De Quintal (wonderful role models of faith. I also have two brothers, Peter and Nelson (a person could not ask for two better brothers).

Q. If you had to create a Catholic Resume which highlighted ways you are a WITNESS to the Catholic faith, what would be on it?

Different stages of my life have called me to action in different ways. I have helped lead and organize service trips to Haiti, Mexico and parts of the US. I have also helped mobilize local youth involvement in World Youth Days 1997, 2000, 2002. We are truly blessed to live in a wonderful city where I have been lucky enough to work with students in partnership with over 30 different local charities.

I see so many others doing so much more. God bless the many incredible leaders of all ages in the TCDSB! I watch in awe of incredible young people like Bishop Marrocco / Thomas Merton's recent award recipient of the Student Trustee Award of Excellence in Academics, Leadership and Christian Values, Brandan Tran. I would include in my Catholic Resume to simply be associated with persons like him and so many other

heroes in our midst.

Now my Catholic Resume would highlight doing my best to be a good husband, good father, good son, good brother, and good teacher. We who teach are blessed with a vocation to help serve the students in our midst. I believe that working to set an example for the students in front of us is greater than any challenge that I have ever faced. Like the prayers recited regularly by the Missionaries of Charities states:

*"Let them look up and see no longer us, but only Jesus.
Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as You shine,
so to shine as to be a light to others.
The light, O Jesus, will be all from You; none of it will be ours.
It will be You, shining on others through us."*

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

I hope to provide our students with hope and peace. I hope to lighten their burdens a little and encourage them on their journeys. I don't know if I make a difference but I believe that God does and I want to be a tool in God's hands.

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

Just like anyone who wants to grow in anything, it takes time and practice. Our faith lives needs committed time and effort. The more prayers, the better!

I believe that we are very blessed to be part of the Toronto Catholic District School Board family that allows us the blessing to be in a community of believers. This community allows us to celebrate the good times with and to gain support for our journey in difficult times.