



Father Damian: Alumni Witness to Faith

I was born in 1975 in Guyana and immigrated to Canada in 1980.

I attended TCDSB schools and was a student at the Toronto School of Theology.

My previous career was a Licensed Automotive Technician for Scarborough Dodge. Currently, I am a priest of the Archdiocese of Toronto, the Assistant Vocations Director, and I am also one of 8 York Regional Police Chaplains.

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

I think my service as a priest and the numerous ways in which the ministry of the priesthood already witnesses to Christ would be sufficient. However, if I were to create a list it would look include: daily prayers, administering the Sacraments, and the constant sacrifice of my own will and time for the love of God and God's people. I have also helped the poor and destitute in the past by volunteering my time at the Good Shepherd Refuge and also in the Missions of Jamaica with Father Ho-Lung and the Missionaries of the Poor.

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

The difference I hope to make in the world by living my life based on Jesus' teaching is to bring hope and love to a world that can sometimes appear to be in darkness with violence, injustice, suffering and pain. To bring Christ's love to all so that all can come to know and love God.

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

My advice to all young Catholics, who are trying to find ways to express their faith, echoes that of Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta and Saint Terese of the child Jesus. "To do the ordinary things in an extra-ordinary way." All that you are tasked to do, to do it with love and to give completely of yourselves. If you find that your charity is decreasing toward others, such as toward your parents, friends, family, neighbour and God then that should be an indication that your actions to live out your faith needs to be re-examined. Your faith expressed ought to lead you to being a more charitable person; possessing great heroic virtues. In other words to be a saint here on earth, and quoting Blessed Mother Theresa again, "Saints are those who did extraordinary things; but did ordinary things in an extra-ordinary way."