



Roger Richard: Teacher Witness to Faith

My name is Roger Richard and I am the chaplain and music teacher for Father John Redmond Secondary. I started with the board as an itinerant Music teacher, and then was Vocal Music Resource for the board before I became a lay chaplain for Redmond. I'm the baby of 13, an Acadian, and was born in the Montreal area. Yes, I am related to the Rocket!

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 try to witness by sharing the great news of God's love to all I encounter (using words if necessary). I am humbled by this challenge, and my daily struggles often get in the way, but the Lord is faithful, and I trust that as I grow in my prayer life I will be a more faithful witness to this great news of God's love. Some more formal ways that I witness to the faith include leading morning prayer at my school, planning and leading prayer services for students and/or staff, organizing grade level retreats and charitable events, working with local clergy to provide Sacraments for staff and students, directing a choir at my parish and continuing my studies in Theology.

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

I believe that our faith is not primarily about teachings or values; it's about building a relationship with the God who created us and wants to live in intimate relationship with us. The values and teachings flow from that intimacy. My hope is that I can help others in whatever way needed to draw closer to Jesus. John Paul II wrote a lot about the need for relationship in spreading the message of Christ. I try to build meaningful relationships with others and, through that, witness to God's love. I believe that the more we encounter Christ in and through each other, the more our world will be transformed.

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

Mother Theresa said it so well, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." I guess that everyone has to discover their unique way of sharing God's message of love. Sometimes we may question our talents and our meaning in the world. In prayer we can ask God to affirm our giftedness, help us to be aware of the needs around us, and to help us to serve in practical, meaningful ways in a spirit of love. This is usually manifested in simple ways, one person at a time.

I believe we should always be ready to give a reason for the hope that is in us, like St. Peter says. Sometimes as Catholics we may be shy to talk about Jesus and our faith for whatever reason. Even if we often fail to live it out, I am amazed at how receptive people (especially students) are to hear about the "Good News" of our creator's love.