

MY NAME IS PAUL YANCHAR. YOU MAY RECOGNIZE ME. I'VE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE PARISH FOR OVER 25 YEARS. I'M A CANTOR AND A MEMBER OF THE CHOIR. IF YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE MY FACE YOU MAY RECOGNIZE MY NAME BECAUSE IT'S IN THE BULLETIN EVERY WEEK SOLICITING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WESTERLY DRIVERS WHICH I ORGANIZE.

THIS YEAR'S STEWARDSHIP THEME IS "LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE" AND I'M HERE TODAY TO TALK TO YOU FOR A FEW MINUTE ABOUT THE MINISTERIES THAT I'M INVOLVED IN AND HOW I SHARE MY TIME AND TALENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT LUKE PARISH.

FOR THE FIRST 12 YEARS OR SO BEING A MEMBER OF SAINT LUKE PARISH I SAT NEAR THE BACK OF THE CHURCH ON THE EAST SIDE, FULFILLED MY OBLIGATION AND THEN PRETTY MUCH WENT HOME UNTIL THE NEXT WEEK.

EVENTUALLY I GOT THE FEELING THAT I WANTED TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH THE CHURCH AND LOOKED FOR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE. I WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE BEYOND MY OBLIGATION.

IN THE BULLETIN I NOTICED AN ADD FOR THE GAURDIAN ANGELS WHICH IS A GROUP THAT PROVIDES MEALS FOR THOSE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH ROUGH TIMES AND NEED ASSISTANCE WITH MEAL PREPARATION. YOU'RE ASKED TO PREPARE A FULLY COOKED MEAL AND TOLD WHERE TO DELIVER IT. THE PEOPLE EXPECTING THE MEAL WOULD LEAVE A COOLER OUT FOR YOU TO PUT THE FOOD INTO. YOU WOULD NOT NORMALLY SEE THE PERSON SO THERE WOULD BE NO AWKWARDNESS OR EMBARRASSEMENT.

I LIKED THAT BUT I WAS ONLY CALLED UPON ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR AND THAT REALLY WASN'T EVERYTHING THAT I WAS LOOKING FOR AS FAR AS BECOMING INVOLVED.

THEN I NOTICED AN ADD IN THE BULLETIN FOR WESTERLY DRIVERS. THIS IS A GROUP OF FOLKS THAT DRIVE RESIDENTS OF THE WESTERLY TO CHURCH ON SATURDAY TO THE 4:30 AND SUNDAY TO THE 9:30 MASS. THE WESTERLY IS AN ADULT LIVING CENTER ON 146TH AND DETROIT.

AT THAT TIME THE MINISTRY WAS BEING RUN BY ROSANNNE VICTORY. I SIGNED UP AND BEGAN DRIVING ABOUT ONCE PER MONTH. I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY EASY, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, BECAUSE I WAS COMING TO MASS ANYWAY.

EVENTUALLY ROSANNE'S HEALTH PREVENTED HER FROM CONITNUING AS THE ORGANIZER AND SHE ASKED ME TO TAKE OVER WHICH I GLADLY DID BUT THEN I SUDDENLY REALIZED NOW I'M REALLY COMMITTED.

I CONTINUED TO SIT IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH AND LIKED TO SING THE HYMNS. SOMETIMES I FELT AWKWARD SINGING BECAUSE AS YOU ALL KNOW MANY FOLKS DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE SINGING EITHER BECAUSE THEY THINKS IT'S NOT COOL OR BECAUSE THEY DON'T THINK THEY HAVE A GOOD VOICE. ANYWAY, I DECIDED TO START SITTING IN THE CHOIR LOFT BECAUSE THERE I THOUGHT I COULD SING AND NO ONE WOULD TURN AROUND AND STARE AT ME.

AFTER A LITTLE WHILE A COUPLE OF THE CHOIR MEMBERS AND DON GRABOWY ASKED ME IF I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE CHOIR. I DIDN'T EXACTLY JUMP RIGHT IN BUT I DID EVENTUALLY JOIN. I'VE BEEN A MEMBER NOW FOR ABOUT THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

MY POINT IN ALL OF THIS IS THAT SOME FOLKS JOIN A PARISH AND JUMP RIGHT IN AND BECOME INVOLVED AND THAT'S GREAT. OTHER ARE LIKE ME WHO ARE A FAMILIAR FACE BUT KIND OF EASE THEIR WAY INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNITY. WHICHEVER YOU HAPPEN TO BE IS FINE. DON'T LET THE FACT THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN INVOLVED MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE IT'S TOO LATE.

THERE ARE DOZENS OF MINISTRIES OFFERED BY SAINT LUKES. LOOK THROUGH THE LIST AND SEE WHICH BEST FITS YOUR TIME AND TALENTS. IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL GOOD TO HELP THOSE IN NEED AND TO HELP TO STRENGTHEN AND BUILD THE COMMUNITY OF SAINT LUKES.

AS I SAID I BELONG TO THE CHOIR AND WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOICES. WE ARE A VERY FRIENDLY GROUP AND DAN GRABOWY IS A FANTASTIC CHOIR DIRECTOR WHO MAKES THINGS LIGHT HEARTED AND FUN. WE PRACTICE ON WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30, SO IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST PLEASE COME BY AND MEET THE GROUP.

AS FAR AS THE WESTERLY DRIVERS, PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING. IT IS SO SIMPLE TO DRIVE FOLKS TO CHURCH SINCE YOU ARE COMING ANYWAY. WE ARE TRYING TO EXPAND THE SERVICE TO OTHER FOLKS BEYOND THE WESTERLY SO ADDITIONAL DRIVERS ARE VERY WELCOME. ALSO IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF A RIDE, PLEASE CONTACT ME OR THE PARISH OFFICE AND WE WILL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS.

ALL OF THE MINISTRIES ARE HERE TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY. IF YOU ARE IN NEED OR REQUIRE SOME SORT OF ASSISTANCE LOOK TO YOUR PARISH COMMUNITY. THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE. USE THE SERVICES AND MINISTRIES WE PROVIDE AND DON'T BE EMBARRASSED TO ASK FOR HELP. WE ALL NEED IT AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

OUR TIME AND TALENTS ARE GIVEN TO US BY GOD TO SHARE. PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOURS.

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT NOW TO PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER WHAT GIFTS YOU HAVE TO GIVE TO JESUS AND TO YOUR SAINT LUKE COMMUNITY THIS ADVENT SEASON TO LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.

THANKS FOR LISTENING.