
DEMING HEADLIGHT

Voice of the people

Fr. Joseph Anderson changed my life

Editor:

I write this letter to acknowledge a humble priest who was called home to Our Lord on May 8th, 2002. His name was Fr. Joseph K. Anderson, OSB, former pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church.

Fr. Joe was a true follower of Jesus Christ and lived his life humbly.

He gave of himself wholeheartedly to his parishioners, and those in need who came to his door for help.

He never turned anyone away! He ministered to the sick in our local hospital, even those who were not Catholic, he would assure the patients that "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" and that "Heaven belongs to everybody who believes!"

He was a light of joy to the elderly at our local nursing home when he would celebrate Mass for them.

He also had a special place in his big heart for the prisoners in the local detention centers and the prison in Las Cruces.

In spite of the sad news of "crisis in the Catholic Church and the priesthood" I can honestly speak of Fr. Joe as a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

He served the church and the community of Deming to the best of his ability. My faith in God and the church has only grown stronger!

I would like to conclude with a passage from 2 Timothy 6-8 that reminds me of Fr. Joe:

"As for me, the hour has come; the time has come for me to leave this life. I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory awarded for a righteous life, the prize which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that Day - and not only to me, but to all those who wait with love for Him to appear."

God bless you Fr. Joe!

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Sylvia Madrid-Henriquez
Deming