

Hello Everyone,

I am looking forward to this new ministry as Parish/School DRE with great hope and some honest fear. The introduction in this bulletin told you “what I am”; here, I will try to tell you “who I am.”

A cradle catholic, I grew up on the cusp bridging Vatican I and II, at the time when you were either Catholic or Public as a “religion”. The turbulence in Catholicism during this time led me to leave “organized” religion for 27 years under the fallacy of secular humanism.

Although I had distanced myself from God, Jesus stayed right there. During recuperation from my last wrist surgery in 2018, I had nothing to do, so I read...the Koran.... The Baga Vita .. the teachings of the Buddha. Studying intensely on my own. The result: Jesus called me home to Rome to paraphrase Dr. Scott Hahn.

God then took me on a different path. The wrist injury ended my career as a Surgeon. I got a cough in August of 2020 while working in the CoVid ICU. This led to a Chest Xray in September, Cardiac CT in October, and quadruple bypass in November. Amazingly (Thanks be to God) with NO heart damage.

My open-heart surgery was scheduled 48hrs after my Cardiac Cath. I was unafraid. I was at peace with potential death. The million or so years I’d spend in purgatory were well earned during my 27yr hiatus. I prayed that God would take care of my wife.

The next day while trying to decide on a hamburger or mac and cheese(yummy hospital food) for my last meal, the room became bright. I wondered who was messing with the lights. Suddenly I felt a calm, extreme calm, not that I was worried I was reading a menu for Pete’s sake. Then it came. The “Voice” (more like a Star Trek mind meld): “ You will be fine, I have/there is more for you to do” Me a sinner, a REAL sinner, He wants me to do something more? I knew this: I wanted EVERYONE to experience what I had just experienced. This had to be for everyone, not just me.

My career and life as a Surgeon/ Academic were over. God closed the door but opened a new one. I tried to listen and follow his will. He led me to a Theology Degree and now this incredible ministry. I still don’t know where that will lead, but I know He does.

I am looking forward to getting to know more of you personally and helping us walk our pilgrimage of faith.

Sorry for the lengthjust be glad I’m not talking..LOL

Jim” Doc”