Drug Addiction

Good evening my name is James I am a lifelong resident of New Rochelle. I was a catechist for the NRHS School of Religion for 19 years and a Baseball/Softball coach for over 17 years. I have spent a lot of time with our youth and the one thing I’ve learned about kids is “they do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care”.

This past weekend I was in Michigan as a sponsor for my best friend’s son’s confirmation. It was a beautiful church, Mass, Ceremony, the excitement and the innocence were visible in these young adults. While confirmation is the final step in the initiation process, it is just the beginning of their journey as Christians. During the Mass the Bishop pulled out his eukele and starting singing “this little light of mine” while his redition left something to be desired, it is the words that are memorable “this little light of mine I’m going to let it shine”. There is a light inside of every one of God’s children and while it may dim at times, its power is so great it can never be shut off!

I couldn’t help but think about their innocence and the challenges they would surely face in these next few formidable years. It is also my experience that kids go through CCD to be confirmed. Then most parents do not make it as important and there is a huge drop off in the attendance for post confirmation religious classes. In essence the years where they need God and good Christian values the most, they are furthest from God…Leaving them to rely on teachers (no offense, but in public schools the mention of God is not acceptable), and their friends whom know even less than them!

Drugs (addiction in general) can affect anybody it does not discriminate color, creed, sexual orientation, economic situation, etc…My family is no different. We know firsthand the damage and destruction caused by drugs, alcohol, gambling…While I have never used illicit drugs, I have on occasion abused alcohol. Some of my best friends were not so lucky and ended up in jail, lost everything or dead!

My situation is not rare…I do feel the reason I was spared from that path was my strong family values and even stronger faith in God. As a matter of fact, if I could give one gift to my beautiful 10 year old daughter Juliana, it would be my gift of faith!

Adults! We all know that it is easier to put the work in upfront to deal with the underlying issues that lead to drug use/abuse than it is to cure someone with the addiction. To those afflicted with this disease, I have good news God allows U-turns, he will forgive you! However, you have to put the work in and right your own ship, mend strained and broken relationships and win your battle one day at a time! I love you all and will pray for us all. God is good, all the time! Your Brother in Christ. James