

Colbi Jacobs

Mr. Rutherford

Oxford Scholar Essay

12 November 2021

Sean Rogers

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Not an instructor. Not a professor. But a reverend. A priest.

Father Sean Rogers is the pastor of Healdsburg's St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. He is the one who performs sacraments of the faith for his parish. The one who preaches and serves the Gospel. As a priest, he does not hold the title of "teacher", it is implied. Father Sean is the teacher of sacred science, of the faith.

William Arthur Ward stated that "the mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires".

Father Sean has single handedly been the most inspirational teacher in my life. Although my learning did not occur in a classroom, his lectures still spoke to me.

As a priest, Father Sean is expected to give homilies following the gospel reading. In these lectures Father Sean reads the room. He has the quality of adaptability, allowing him to pick up on his audience and speak to what he feels they need to hear. He presents his message in a way that engages church presence, with every word being prevalent. He does not just lecture, but utilizes empathy and patience to preach meaningful and moving messages. He has the ability to use his words to touch every soul that is listening.

Father Sean is someone who is real. He speaks from the heart, not reading off of a sheet of paper. He values real-world learning, providing real-world examples in his teachings, to create a message that is relatable.

Father Sean is not a teacher that rambles on and on. Every word that comes out of his mouth is meaningful, working to inspire his audience.

Often we think of teachers as those who are addressed by a Dr., Mr., Miss, or Mrs. I have had 14 years of educators that have held these titles. There have been numerous that I would consider good teachers, but only a select few that I would consider great. A great teacher can hold any title. The reason why I consider Father Sean my greatest teacher is due to his impact, and his ability to inspire others to go out and make a change, a difference, because ultimately educators are educating the leaders of tomorrow.