



Sister of Mercy, Mary Schmuck, serves with the Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry Department.

May Our Heroes Inspire Us

It might surprise our fire department and emergency medical service personnel to know that often enough they move me to tears.

The tears are of admiration and a fervent prayer that God will take into account their generous courage and our cooperation with them as we scramble to clear a driving path for them as they race to yet another emergency. None of us moving out of the way is an extraordinarily good person all the time, but at this moment we all are putting ourselves out for the benefit of others in grave need.

The generous courage of these emergency response personnel is a counterbalance to our parade of people going to prison from both the private sector and government, to the range of at least misguided if not fully intentional harming one another and/or the common good of society. May God bless each emergency response person for the skills he or she has honed and for committing those skills at this moment to helping people in dire need.

There are other major if every day heroes in our lives. Police department personnel—who most of the time are dealing with troubled people during harmful things, yet they keep on working to protect the general peace and public welfare, no doubt working hard to keep a positive attitude about life and humanity.

Recently there was the report of those college softball players who helped the injured player of their opposing team “run” the bases so she could get credit for the home run she had hit. That is greatness of soul!

How much does society depend on the services of teachers? They are just passing along to the next generations the wisdom gained to date. Of course each of us teaches all the time as our young people learn from all we do or don’t do, see through to our hearts. But there has to be a special place in heaven for teachers.

There are also other adults to work with young peo-

ple—on all sorts of teams and projects. Ed and Barbara, my dear brother and sister-in-law, have positively touched thousands of young people beyond their own two sons and 3 grandchildren through their years of hours in volunteer service as coach, umpire, statistics tracker and faithful fans for various types of ball games played by several generations of young people.

Shall we consider all our medical services personnel? For all the growing emphasis on preventive medicine, no doubt most of us seldom appreciate our medical people—until we are physically hurting. Very likely they experience job satisfaction as they see us getting better—but year in and year out staying with this effort—they are indeed heroes.

What about our public officials, elected and appointed? They could do other things with their lives, but they put their time and talents to service of the public good. Many of them indeed see their work as public service and/or a way to give back for all the good that has come their way. The KET/PBS series, American Experience, reports that President George H W Bush certainly is of that frame of mind. “May their tribe increase!”

The persons among us who live simply in order to give Earth some relief, all the folks helping out in international emergencies—Burma (now called Myanmar) being our most recent tragedy—they too are doing really hard work in our names. Real heroes, all.

I suspect all this reflection on the heroes in our lives comes down to a question about what more can I do or be to contribute to life in this time, to all those in my circles of influence. How make such living a call to positive energy, especially in this time marked by fostering fear, amazement at how many things seem to be going wrong pretty much at one time. These heroes keep reminding us that it can be done!

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