



Never Give Up!

A Very Special Priest

Some people happen to come into our lives and really make a tremendous difference.

When I arrived in San Jose, California I just happened to go to Queen of Apostles Church. It was at that parish that I met Fr. Jim Mifsud, a Marianist Priest. I had never met such a caring and vibrant priest who was full of energy and enthusiasm for life. When I told him how homesick I was he assured me that everything would be fine. When I asked him if he was sure he said, "of course". From then on I realized this was a special caring person. The basis for his advice focused on the words from Churchill- Never Give Up. These words were the key to Fr. Mifsud's whole philosophy of life whether it be religious, psychological or just ordinary living.

It was these words that helped focus me on what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life. Fr. Jim would always say to me when I got discouraged, that "all is possible if you really set your mind to it". Then he would always help me when problems would arise- such as not being able to get the classes I needed or failing the compressive exam. He was the one who would say "Never Give Up". Fr. Jim is a great believer in the philosophy that anything is possible if you really want to achieve it. With that extra boost I was able to get my Master of Arts in TESOL- Teaching English As A Second Language at age 55. I finally achieved what I wanted to do and that was to teach English to foreign students. Thanks Fr. Jim.

Not only did this priest help me to accomplish my goal but also he was there to help with family issues and problems. Fr. Jim loves being a priest and this was the life he knew he wanted at age 6. I think I was very fortunate to have had the chance to know him. I was very lucky that our paths crossed on that Sunday in August, 1985. Through the years we have laughed, cried and celebrated together.

Now Parkinson's disease has forced him to retire from keeping active as a pastor. However, that hasn't reduced his enthusiasm for life or for being with people. Parishioners from the parish visit him often. I am just thankful that our paths crossed. What a gift! I will always be grateful!