

Fr. Scheier says during his first twelve years after ordination he was not being a priest for Jesus. Instead of suffering for Jesus he was a priest for himself. He always ran from the cross. If we run from the cross there is a bigger one awaiting us. Father says he was a coward during those twelve years. His mission now is to let people know that Jesus' love outweighs justice, that hell exists and that we are liable to hell. He also says that Jesus' Divine Mercy does exist. I conclude with some of the words of the parable in our Gospel today which has become so meaningful to Fr. Scheier,

"Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?"
"Sir," the man replied, "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."
(Luke 13:7-9)

NOTE: Fr. Scheier was interviewed on The Catholic TV channel, EWTN, with Mother Angelica. Nick and I happened to see that interview, which we thought most interesting. Later that evening we received a call from a friend of ours who works at EWTN. She asked us for permission to give Fr. Scheier our telephone number, as she had been talking to him and the subject of Padre Pio happened to come up. Our friend told Fr. Scheier that she had friends in Boston who were very dedicated to Padre Pio. Father said he would very much like to speak with us, so we gave permission for our telephone number to be given to him, never thinking that we would actually hear from him. The next day I was unable to go to work with Nick and had to remain at home. Early afternoon, Nick called me and said to keep the line open, you will be getting a call from Fr. Scheier. Shortly thereafter, the phone rang, and a very calm, deep voice said "Hello, Janet this is Fr. Scheier how are you feeling? I just spoke with your husband and asked if it would be ok to call you." We spoke about his accident and in great detail about his judgment, and how it had really changed his life. He said that the Blessed Mother had the softest sweetest voice he had ever heard, and he was thankful for her saving him from hell. He suggested that Nick and I tell everyone to pray, pray and pray more. Also that "Jesus is Merciful." Speaking with Fr. Scheier was an incredible experience for us. We would like you to consider the Blessed Mother's intercession for Fr. Scheier while praying. Also pray constantly for priests, especially pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary. God Bless You.

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Father Steven Scheier

an unforgettable experience



... "I heard a woman say ...

Son, will you please spare his life and his eternal soul?"

Fr. Steven Scheier
and the Parable of the Fig Tree
by Fr. Tommy Lane

Fr. Steven Scheier was ordained a priest in 1973. Unfortunately he was more concerned about what other priests thought of him rather than about being a good priest for Jesus. His priesthood was not in the service of Jesus but to win people's admiration. Deep down he knew he was not doing what he should be as a priest. Instead, he says, he hid that fact to the point that people thought he was a good priest.

On October 18th 1985, Fr. Scheier was traveling from Wichita to his parish (Parish of the Sacred Heart) in Fredonia, Kansas, 86 miles away. The highway does not have any shoulders and it is heavily traveled by semis, pickups and vans. That morning he had gone to Wichita to meet a priest and was returning that afternoon. He was involved in a terrible accident: a head-on collision with a pickup truck and **with God**. Three people were in the pickup. No one was killed. Fr. Scheier was thrown from his vehicle. His entire scalp was taken off on the right side. The doctors told him afterwards the right side of his brain was partially sheered off and many cells were crushed. He was unconscious at the scene. Behind him in the ambulance on the way to the hospital was a nurse, who later mentioned she tried to help him with the Hail Mary but she didn't know it, but he was saying the Hail Mary over and over by himself. He was taken to a small hospital in Eureka, Kansas. He had suffered a broken neck, a C2, the second cervical vertebra was broken, the hangman's break. Had his head been turned either way at the scene of the accident he would have asphyxiated. The doctor said there wasn't much he could do and sewed his scalp back on and called for the life watch helicopter from Lesley Hospital in Wichita. He did not know he was being transported because he was unconscious. One of his parishioners who happened to be at the hospital was told he was being given a 15% chance to live. Many people of different Christian faiths prayed for him. Fr. Scheier said God hears everyone's prayer and that's why he is still here today. He had no surgery. The accident happened in October and on December 2nd he was released from the hospital and still had the support of the halo around his head. He recuperated at home until they took the halo off in April, at which time he was able to return to his parish duties in May 1986.

One day when celebrating Mass, the Gospel was today's Gospel about the fig tree (Luke 13:1-9). While proclaiming the Gospel, the page became illuminated, enlarged and came off the lectionary toward Fr. Scheier. He finished Mass as best he could and back at the rectory remembered a spiritual conversation that had taken place shortly after the accident. In that conversation Fr. Scheier found himself standing before the judgment of Jesus. He doesn't know how long it lasted. He says the Lord took him through his entire life, and showed him how he had failed in his priestly service. Fr. Scheier said "yes" to everything Jesus said about his priestly service and about his life. Before the accident Fr. Scheier had planned that sometime in the future when he would go before the judgment seat of Jesus he would say that he was

"pushed" on any day he sinned and couldn't do anything about it. He had a number of excuses all ready. He used to go to confession regularly before the accident but not appropriately i.e. he was not allowing the sacrament to change his life. He did not have a purpose of amendment. Before the accident he was thinking there would be time to convert. During this judgment scene Jesus taught him there is no time. Now before Jesus, he was talking to Truth, and when you are talking to Truth, **you can't give excuses**. At the end of his judgment, Jesus sentence him to hell. Fr. Scheier said "yes" as that was the only logical judgment that he deserved. He then heard a voice saying **"come on down, you belong to me."** At that moment, he heard a woman say, "Son, will you please spare his life and his eternal soul?" The Lord replied, "Mother, he's been a priest for twelve years for himself and not for me, let him reap the punishment he deserves." "But Son," she said, "if we give him special graces and strengths then let's see if he bears fruit; if not, your will be done." There was a very short pause, after which Jesus said, "Mother, he's yours."

Ever since then he has been Our Lady's. He didn't have a special relationship with Our Lady before the accident but since then she has become everything to him. At the foot of the cross Jesus looked on his mother Mary and made her mother of the whole Church. Fr. Scheier says she takes that very literally and seriously. Fr. Scheier experienced Jesus' mercy but Mary was the one who interceded for him. He has learned this beautiful truth, no one of the Blessed Trinity can say "no" to Our Lady. It is impossible. They will not say "no" to her. He says "Isn't she someone you want on your side?"

We believe in God, Our Lady and the saints in two ways, with our head or the heart. Fr. Scheier believed with his head and knew nothing from his heart. He believed in angels and saints, but they were make-believe friends for him and were not real. After the accident he became aware that they **are** very real, that we have only one home and it's in HEAVEN. Fr. Scheier says a lot of our priorities are mixed up. His priorities were mixed up, he should have been saving his soul, and as a priest the souls of others. If he had died his parishioners would have thought that he went to heaven instead of hell. Jesus doesn't take a popularity poll. He is the only one that matters. It makes no difference what others think about us, because we stand **alone** before Jesus in judgment. We cannot say somebody made me sin, because Jesus knows the truth.