

Saturday After Ash Wednesday
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I have a problem with saying no to things. People tell me that all of the time. My students have taken to jokingly calling me "Captain Non-Profit" because of my involvement with so many different projects in the community. My daily calendar is something that often scares the heck out of me. Between running the kids to practices, rehearsals, and lessons and our own projects, my wife and I have daily planning discussions that we jokingly say must look something like the planning for the Normandy Invasion.

I sometimes feel like it's too much. It can become very stressful managing all of it. I find myself thinking, "Why am I doing all of this?" I could be sitting on the couch watching *The West Wing* instead of running a workshop at KISS Theatre or balancing the checkbook for the Wilkes-Barre City Little League. Wouldn't that time on the couch make me happier?

It is easy to lose sight of what really matters when you are in the thick of it. The readings today have reminded me that the reason I have a problem saying no is that I feel called to share my time and talents with other people to try, in whatever small way, to make our little piece of the world a brighter place.

"Then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday;" This statement, I think, really sums up the idea. If we can give ourselves over to help others we, in turn, make ourselves better. I came to my faith later in my life than many people do. The thing that I think I find most compelling is the idea of "Good Works" the idea that what we do for others is central to our faith.

So, I'm going to keep at it, and probably keep saying yes to things. But don't worry, I will still make some time for *The West Wing*.