



## THE HIGH PLAINS PREACHER

Welcome to the High Plains Preacher, stories about the Bible, high wind, fast horses, lack of moisture and other elements of life in the Texas Panhandle

### Rescue Missions

by Fr. Jim Schmitmeyer

Last Sunday I visited my parish youth group. One young man, Nathan, was slouched in an easy chair in the corner of the room. Other kids were eating burritos and checking their I-phones. I brought up the topic of vocations. With some prompting on my part, two of the girls mentioned that, occasionally, they do think about becoming being sisters. When I asked why, one of the girls, Scarlet, said: "I want to help people who need help in a big way." As I we talked further, she said that what she really wants to do is serve in a medical mission in a foreign country.

At this point, Nathan winced as he tried to sit up. He informed us that he had hurt his leg from a hunting accident in the mountains of New Mexico. Hearing Scarlet talk about medical aid prompted him to relate what it was like getting injured in the mountains far away from any urgent care facility.

I asked Nathan if the hunting accident made him consider an occupation that involved of rescuing people?

"Never thought about that," he said.

I shared with them an insight about discovering one's true calling: It is found at that place where one's deepest passion meets the world's greatest need. "Our world needs to be rescued in many ways," I added. "How can you help Christ bandage its wounds and feed its hunger for food, for justice, for God?"

I hope they got my message: A religious vocation is nothing less than a high adventure rescue mission.

Each week, my parish offers a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament for vocations. I ask each of you today to join us in praying for our young people as they discern the most important thing in their life: their vocation. We must pray for them, day and night, that they will have the courage and fortitude to invest their talents and energy, their love and passion into living a life that will yield a hundred-fold bounty of goodness and grace for the salvation of the world for which Christ gave His life.

So, as you encourage your children and grandchildren to follow their dreams, remember to mention God's dream as well, that is, the rescue mission in which he calls each of us to pitch in and do our part.

