



Priest, Prophet, King: Father Chuck Canterna

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Through baptism, we are called to be like Christ, to live a certain way, to be rightly aligned with God. “You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12). As Jesus was anointed priest, prophet, and king, so too are we called to follow him, to imitate him, to reflect him to the world. [Father Chuck Canterna](#) has devoted his life - as priest, prophet, and king - to sharing the divine love of Jesus Christ with the many lives he touches in Baltimore, Maryland.

Ordained a priest in 1976, Father Chuck has ministered to the homeless as a street priest, and to the incarcerated as a prison chaplain. Through his daily work tending to the “least of these brothers” (Matthew 25:40), and subjecting himself to the squalor of [the most dangerous city in America](#), Father Chuck, through his personal sacrifice, “consecrates the world itself to God, everywhere offering worship by the holiness of [his life]” (CCC 901).

“To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer” (CCC 904). As a prison chaplain, Father Chuck has fulfilled prophetic obligations of the most urgent order, leading others to Christ by providing spiritual direction to [men on death row](#).

Despite the darkness he faces, and the evil he battles on a daily basis (he literally works 7 days a week) Father Chuck may be the most positive, uplifting, and genuinely happy person I know. He radiates “royal freedom” never allowing his surroundings to keep him “imprisoned by sin or thrown headlong into wickedness” (CCC 908). He is a strong witness for God’s divine mercy, demonstrating through his life, his words, and his deeds the eternal victory Christ has obtained for us over the bondage of sin and death. In an article for the [Catholic Review](#), Father

Chuck affirms, “God is so good. He answers prayers. This is what I always wanted, and he gave it to me.”

Everyone - and I truly mean everyone - who knows Father Chuck would agree on the words used to describe him: amazing, beautiful, incredible, faith-filled, spirit-filled, Christ-filled. He is the most priestly, prophetic, and kingly person I know, and my life - like so many others - has been made indescribably better because of his presence in it.