

My favourite teacher

by Ján Zongor

"If the lessons of history teach us anything it is that nobody learns the lessons that history teaches us," someone said. This quotation rings true but is it the same with teachers? During our lifetime we can be given lots of useful experience when talking about the time spent at school. An (extra) ordinary teacher is a part of it. So I would like to introduce one of them I have liked the most.

When I started to study at grammar school in Šaštín, I came into contact with Mr Šefčík who was a Math teacher. There is no doubt that a good teacher should be someone like our second father. That means to combine two important human traits – mercy and assertiveness. Mr Šefčík was a great example of it. During his lessons I remember him to be funny, sometimes crazy. Not only did we have lots of fun with him, but he also knew when to be strict. I really consider him to be warm-hearted too. A good teacher should also be an understanding psychologist, which he really was.

Having said that he has always been a good person in general, he was also a "mega mind". His lessons were full of intellectual things, questions, answers and whatever. We were just staring openmouthed at him. Despite that, Mr Šefčík was also willing to admit that there is something that he simply does not know. It was an early lesson in humility for us.

Naturally, he had close friendships with his students. As some people say, just three words should be underlined: Acceptance, Tolerance and Understanding. He gave us that all. Moreover, he added one more thing. He showed us that to be a real Christian means to be a responsible citizen by his own life.

All things considered, I must say that he has been an extraordinary man. It was humanity and faith that gave him that a little bit "extra". You know, his Christian faith has become the backbone of his life. The life that is still being written...