

Fr. Steven Scheier

On October 18, 1985, as he was traveling from Wichita to his parish in Fredonia, Kansas, Fr. Steven Scheier was involved in a terrible accident: a head-on collision with a pickup truck and with God. He found himself standing before the judgment of Jesus. His sentence from Jesus was “hell.” He says that the Lord took him through his entire life, and showed him how he had failed in his priestly service. Unfortunately he was more concerned about what other priests thought of him than about being a good priest for Jesus. His priesthood was not in the service of Jesus but to win people’s admiration. At that moment, however, he heard a woman’s voice say, “Son, will you please spare his life and his eternal soul?” The Lord replied, “Mother, he’s been a priest for 12 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 very short pause, after which Jesus said, “Mother, he’s yours.” Sometime afterwards when he was reading the Parable of the Fig Tree (Luke 13) the words leapt off the page to him, especially the order to cut down the fig tree but getting a reprieve of one more year to bear fruit.

