

March/April 2025 Chimes
Pastor's Page

Roy Campanella

Roy Campanella and Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier on April 15, 1947, as the first African Americans to play in Major League Baseball (MLB) playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers. The All-Star, Roy, was considered one of the greatest catchers in the history of the game, but in his 11th year he was in a tragic car accident which left him a quadriplegic. After much work in rehab but still in a wheelchair, he was hired by the team for scouting and community relations.

A CREED FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve.
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do great things.
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy.
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men.
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life.
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing I asked for - but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among men, most richly blessed.

This poem was written on a plaque in the rehabilitation center that was used by Roy Campanella. He found it an inspiration as he worked through his rehabilitation and ultimate acceptance that he would be a quadriplegic for the rest of his life. In spite of his physical condition, Roy Campanella saw himself as “richly blessed.”

Life is a wonderful blessing and is simultaneously very difficult. Many of you face life daily with deep difficulties. I pray this quadriplegic, Roy, can be an inspiration of leaning into God's embrace and trusting that God will grant you “everything you had hoped for, and you will come to realize that you are richly blessed”. You are a precious child of God, dearly loved by the Good Shepherd!

Much love, peace and joy to you,
Pastor Dan