

From the Vicar's Desk



Shay was mentally and physically 'challenged.' His father told the group, "*I believe that when a child like my son, Shay, comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true, human nature presents itself and it comes in the way other people treat that child.*"

Then he told the following story. Shay & his father had walked past a park where *some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?"* Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "*We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in.*" So, Shay struggled over to the team's bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. His Father watched with a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs, but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear, as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was up.

Now, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible, because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with a speeding ball.

So, you think you know how this drama ends, do you? Part II of this true story will appear here next week.

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