

From the Pastor

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Every aspect of our lives, everything we do, can glorify God and help build up his Kingdom. The great Catholic apologist and writer, G.K. Chesterton, once said that when he became a believer, it even changed the way he brushed his teeth. This is one of the reasons why Christianity is such a dynamic religion - it isn't limited to the sacristy and the altar; it overflows into everything we do and fills us with desires to do more and more. One of Pope John Paul II's favorite phrases was a line written by St. Irenaeus in the third century: "The glory of God is man fully alive." The Christian God is a Father who rejoices in seeing his children grow and flourish.

Years ago a book came out that told the story of a young man who had been drafted into the Russian communist army. He was a Russian who loved his country, but he was also a Christian. Of course, Russian communism had no room for Christianity - it was an atheist social system. And so, during his training, the officers paid special attention to this Christian soldier. They were constantly looking for opportunities to humiliate him in front of the other soldiers, to make life hard for him, so that he would give up his Christian faith. But no matter how closely they watched him, they couldn't find anything to punish him for. In every point of military discipline he was the top soldier: he was always on time; his uniform was always impeccable; his performance was exceptional; his knowledge always complete. He was a Christian, and so everything he did, from kitchen duty to the parade ground, he did with love and excellence, making his whole life into a spiritual worship that was pleasing to God. Each and every day God calls us to this kind of attitude - be the best you can (with God's grace - not alone) in any circumstance - like they say: in good times and in bad times.

Just a little update on my health condition. Helping me deal with pancreatitis, one of the specialist surgeons performed a procedure last Monday using a special gastro scope to block the nerve that is mostly responsible for the pain when the pancreas becomes inflamed (which happens pretty often in my case). After this procedure I definitely don't feel much pain anymore. It works so far. However he also discovered, while inside, that I need another procedure on the pancreatic duct that is closed up again. About 15 months ago I had that procedure done, but will need it again. In about 5 weeks he will have to put a temporary stent in and then in two weeks, remove it. So I will be having two more outpatient surgeries this fall.

Thanks again for your prayerful support. I surely keep all of you in my prayers and especially those who struggle with their various physical ailments.

+ Father Roger