

From the Pastor

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In our Mother Church's teaching we are often encouraged to make our decisions in life based on our faith in Christ. When it comes to practical decisions about how we spend our time, we can sometimes act as if life were really about money, or success, or popularity, or some other enjoyable activity that, in practical terms, we care about more than our friendship with Christ.

This dangerous attitude is encouraged by our aggressive self-help culture, which tells us that true happiness can easily be ours if we just follow the right sequence of bullet points. But that is not true. Christ alone can make us truly happy.

There is a famous story (*told by Groucho Marx*) about a man who, desperately ill, goes to see a psychologist. He tells the doctor that he has lost his desire to live and is seriously considering suicide. The therapist listens attentively and then tells the patient that what he needs is a good belly laugh; he needs to take life a little less seriously. He advises the unhappy man to go to the circus that night and spend the evening laughing at Grock, the world's funniest clown. "Seeing Grock," the doctor says, "will help you relax and recover your perspective." The patient rises to his feet, turns, and ambles to the door. As he starts to leave the doctor says, "By the way, what is your name?" The man turns back and looks sadly at the doctor, then says: "I am Grock."

It is just as impossible for us to give our lives the meaning we thirst for as it is for a car to fill itself up with gas. We were made to live in communion with God, which we can attain through friendship with Christ - who is the true meaning of every human life, both here on earth, and forever hereafter. And still there are so many around us who have not yet discovered or accepted the Savior.

In praying the Creed and receiving Holy Communion we thank our Lord for this great gift, this knowledge of where we are going and how to get there. May we also think about all those who don't share our faith, who don't understand it, or who have abandoned it. They have no lighthouse to guide them, just the deceptive, alluring flashes of fireflies: this world's false philosophies, superficial fashions, and passing pleasures.

Let's ask God to stir up in us the love and concern for our neighbor that is the unique characteristic of all true Christians.

+ *Father Roger*