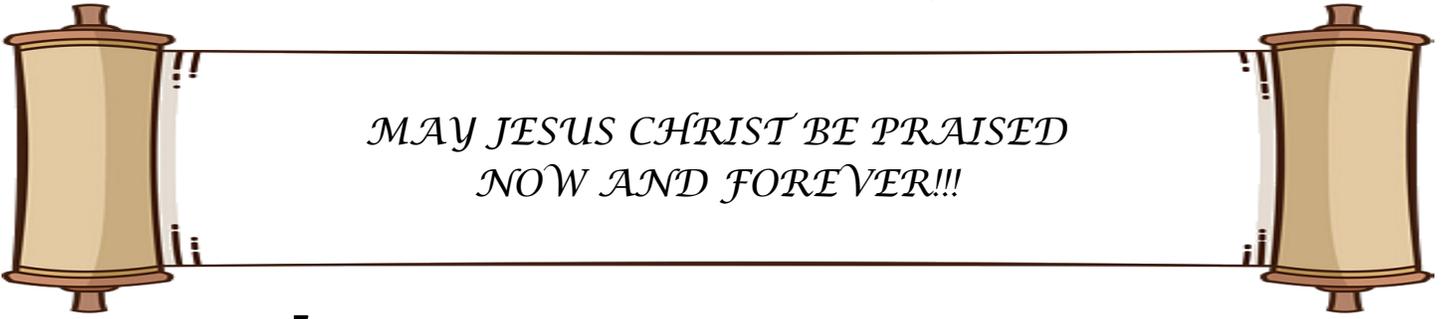


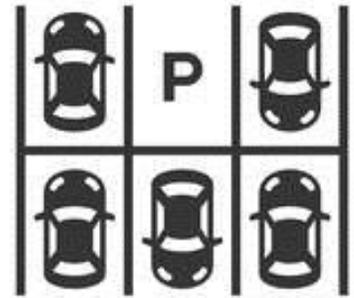
March 24, 2019 – Third Sunday of Lent



SPIRITUAL PONDERINGS

Parking Lot Parents IV

Sr. Patricia McCormack IHM in her book: *Engaging Parking Lot Parents: a Catechist's Guide to Fostering Parents Participation* provides many interesting insights into how we can re-engage fallen away Catholics and at the same time prevent our Church from losing the next generation. Insights from her book will be in bold and my thoughts will be in the normal font.



I love it when an author presents something in a way that helps me remember it. In her book Sr. Patricia shares here tips on how to have a good parent catechist/teacher meeting but I really think her formula works for all relationships and meetings.

- T** --Is it **TRUE**? Whose truth is it? Is it a matter of principle or personal preference/ego?
- H** —Is it **HELPFUL**? Are chances better than not that parent will be able to “hear” what you say and be able to apply your information?
- I** —is it **IMPORTANT**? Is the topic vital to the process of “stimulating one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24)?
- N** —Is it **NECESSARY**? Will silence on this issue cause more harm than good?
- K** -- Is it **Kind**? Is the information you intend to present good-hearted, thoughtful gracious, courteous, and charitable? And will it be spoken with tenderness and sensitivity?

Is it **TRUE**? I like dialoguing (seeking the truth) with people but I hate conflict (where someone has to win and the truth does not matter). I know that the more I know the more I grow and that does not correspond in the same way with “winning” arguments. I may want Pizza to be non-fattening but I know that no amount of arguing on my part will make it healthy.

Is It **HELPFUL**? There are a few priests who at meetings are notorious for not asking questions at the Q&A time of a presentation. Instead, they try to show off by telling everyone what they are doing in their parish under the disguise of asking the speaker a question. In the end all that they succeed in doing is wasting everyone’s time.

Is it **IMPORTANT**? I think one of the most Christian things I can do is allow people to save face. When a person makes a mistake and it is the first time, I may not say anything with the hope that they may self-correct. If they do it a second time, I may challenge them to approach the problem in a different way. Finally, if I do have to correct someone, I try not to do so publicly. Sometimes, this may make it look like I have not addressed an issue, and that is fine for me because often by allowing someone to save face, I gain a new friend or improve a relationship.

Is it **NECESSARY**? My litmus test when it comes to whether or not I should say something to someone about something is two questions. “Do I have moral obligation to say something?” and “Will me saying something, lead that person closer to Christ?” I am constantly reminded of the famous quote from Edmund Burke: “I truly be The only thing necessary for

the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

Is it KIND? In the end, I know that Jesus did not call me to be right but to be loving. I also know that it doesn't matter if I am right if I cannot get people to listen to me. Also, being kind helps get people to take ownership of the outcome. Envy tries to turn everything into a competition and kindness reminds us that everything can be a “win/win” situation.

Here are a couple of more tips from Sr. Patricia.

1. Pray before the conversation.
2. Speak from observations and not from hearsay or personal feelings.
3. Speak with respect, reverence, and encouragement.
4. Avoid inflammatory vocabulary and accusatory or judgmental tone.
5. Speak Kindly but firmly
6. Speak briefly and clearly
7. Think before you speak
8. Encourage with effective praise/feedback
9. truly listen to the other person.
10. Avoid taking things personnel

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

Sunday

“Where is God? Where is God, if evil is present in our world, if there are men and women who are hungry and thirsty, homeless, exiles and refugees...? These are questions that humanly speaking have no answer. But Jesus' answer is 'God is in them.' Jesus is in them; he suffers in them and deeply identifies with each of them, He is so closely united to them as to form with them, as it were, 'one body.'”

Pope Francis

Monday

Holy Spirit change our life as it much as it changed Mary's life

Tuesday

When it comes to hating, gossiping, ignoring, ridiculing, holding grudges, or wanting to cause harm, please apply the following: Stop it! - Dieter F. Uchtdorf

Wednesday

Once a man has truly experienced the mercy of God in his life he will henceforth aspire only to serve. - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thursday

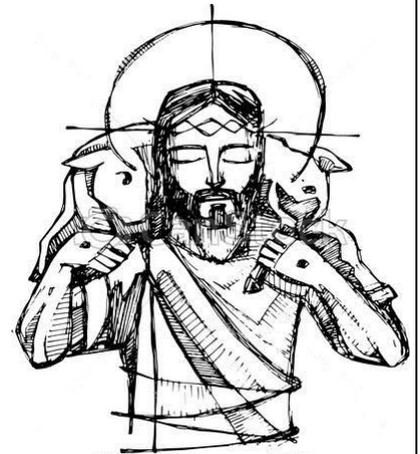
Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil. - C. S. Lewis

Friday

The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go God's love for us does not. C. S. Lewis

Saturday

Don't spend your prayer time looking for a victim for your judgement like a hunter in deer stand.





BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

March 24 2019- Year C Third Sunday of Lent – Year C Readings Lectionary: 30 Gospel LK 13:1-9

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them— do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?' He said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.'"

Spiritual Reflection: German Protestant Minister and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: "Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others, we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are." We must realize that this world is unjust because sin has thrown the world into Chaos. We do not have so that good things will happen to us but rather we do so out of love for God. Bad things happening to us are not signs that God is unhappy with us.

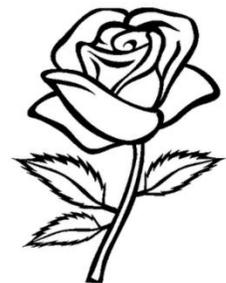
Spiritual Questions:

1. How does love help Christians understand suffering?
2. How can we stop feeling like God is punishing us when bad things happen to us?
3. How many changes have God given you?
4. Are you ready to meet Jesus today?
5. How does sin exhaust the soil?

PRO-LIFE

A Prayer For Personal Conversion

O gracious Master, infuse in our hearts the spotless light of Your Divine Wisdom and open the eyes of our mind that we may understand the teachings of Your Gospel. Instill in us also the fear of Your blessed commandments, so that having curbed all selfish desires, we may lead a life that promotes the dignity of each human person. May everything, I do and think become pleasing to you., or You, O Christ, our God, are the enlightenment of our souls and bodies; and to You we render glory, together with Your eternal Father, and with Your all holy, life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and forever.



St. Monica Society

Please join us in praying a special prayer each month for Catholics who have fallen away from their faith.

PRAYER FOR FALLEN AWAY CATHOLICS DURING LENT

God of times and seasons, you have brought us again to Lent for the study of Your Word, for the remembrance of the temptation of Your Son, and for the contemplation of His Cross. The birds know their seasons; forbid that we be blind to our times. Grant us a Lenten blessing upon us and upon our brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the true faith so that no one will miss this time of growth and repentance. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



CATHOLIC PRAYER:

A PRAYER TO SAY BEFORE THE HOLY MASS

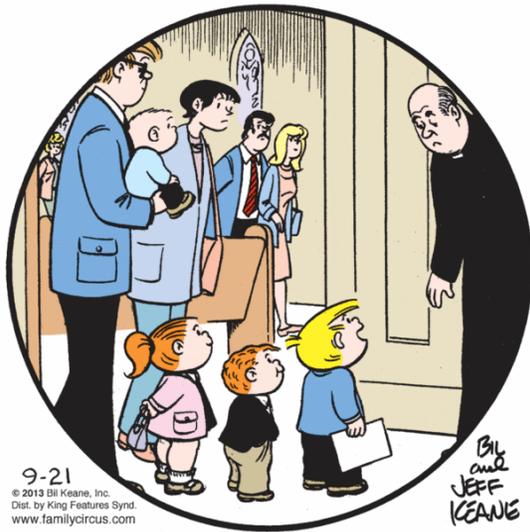
Let me be a holy sacrifice and unite with God in the sacrament of His greatest love. I want to be one in Him in this act of love, where He gives Himself to me and I give myself as a sacrifice to Him. Let me be a holy sacrifice as I become one with Him in this my act of greatest love to Him.

Let me unite with Him more, that I may more deeply love Him. May I help make reparation to His adorable Heart and the heart of His Mother, Mary. With greatest love, I offer myself to You and pray that You will accept my sacrifice of greatest love. I give myself to You and unite in Your gift of Yourself to me. Come and possess my soul.

Cleanse me, strengthen me, heal me. Dear Holy Spirit act in the heart of Mary to make me more and more like Jesus.

Father, I offer this my sacrifice, myself united to Jesus in the Holy Spirit to You. Help me to love God more deeply in this act of my greatest love.

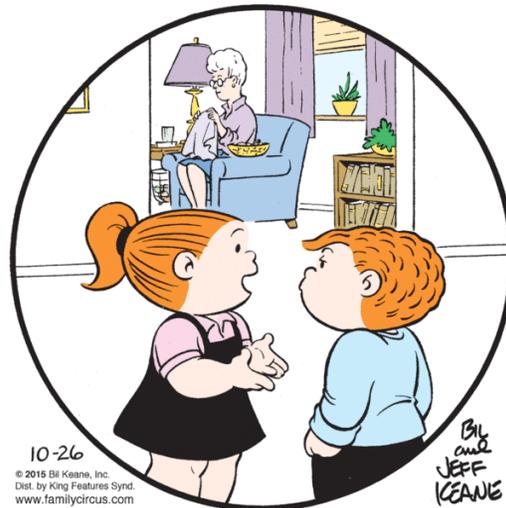
Give me the grace to grow in my knowledge, love and service of You and for this to be my greatest participation in the Mass. Give me the greatest graces to love You so deeply in this Mass, You who are so worthy of my love.



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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

“The sermon was good, but I think you could’ve used a couple jokes to jazz it up a bit.”



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Bill
and
JEFF
KEANE

“The two places we know we’re always welcome are church and Grandma’s house.”

