



Things to Ponder

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Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Mark 10:17-27

Dear Parish Family,

It does not take long to observe that Pope Francis is most at home with those who have little or nothing--with children and the poor--the vulnerable among us. What is it about these “little ones” that he finds most engaging? Might it be that those who have little or nothing are most open to grace?

Not too long ago, I was speaking with several people about how to pray. One wise guide suggested that often we try too hard to “have” an experience of God. He recommended that after our formal prayer or mental reflection on Scripture, we simply listen. Perhaps in a brief moment “time will stand still” and we will know God. The rich young man in today's gospel had the right desire. He wanted to “have” eternal life. He observed all of the commandments. The problem was in the “having.”

Pope Francis is a Jesuit and likely knows well the following prayer of St. Ignatius that helps keep all things in perspective:

“Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty,
my memory, my understanding,
my entire will, all I have and call
my own.

You have given all to me.

Everything is yours; do with it
what you will. Give me only your love
and your grace, that is enough for me.”

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

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