



Things to Ponder

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Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – Luke 19:1-10

Dear Parish Family,

Every election year, well-meaning and devout believers urge priests and preachers to endorse candidates or political parties whose positions, in their opinion, represent more clearly our Catholic values. Thirty-two years ago, in a nearby parish, zealous advocates of the pro-life cause resorted to an even bolder tactic. As Mass was being celebrated, flyers were placed on automobiles urging parishioners not to contribute to the parish or to the Archdiocese because, in their belief, the bishops and pastors were not speaking enough against one party whose vice-presidential candidate was “Catholic and pro-choice.”

I think it is important to note that since that time, the legal system has consistently ruled against the values we hold dear, but moral persuasion, clear teaching, and good example have had a greater impact than might have been imagined. Abortions are on the decrease; pro-life rallies, prayers at abortion clinics, and the availability of pro-life pregnancy aid clinics have all made a difference. Now a new threat looms; it is called “death with dignity,” another phrase for “euthanasia.” Our own parish is currently sponsoring presentations on “end-of-life” issues and our Catholic faith. A few weeks ago, thousands of dollars were raised at a yard sale here to support a mission for the poor in Haiti. St. Francis urged his followers to preach always and “sometimes” use words. What was it that made the tax collector, Zacchaeus so curious to see Jesus? Could it be that the aura of “holiness” exuding from the person of Jesus was so great that this “sinner” not only regretted his wayward lifestyle but also perceived in Jesus a source of hope? Are not we, who are anointed with the oil of chrism in baptism and confirmation other *christs*?

Yours in Him,

Rev. Bill Foley

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