



Things to Ponder

Things to Ponder for Sunday, July 1, 2018

(And see Posting for July 8 below)

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 1, 2018

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Dear Friends and Visitors:

We had been hiking all day in the July heat and were looking forward to dinner and sleep in the next shelter along that section of the Appalachian Trail in Pennsylvania. When we arrived at our destination, a man was waiting with two gallon jugs of water. He said that he lived nearby and knew that there would be thirsty hikers coming to the shelter that night. The little stream, our only source of water, was another half mile down the trail. Some call this trail magic: but I call it the gift of hospitality.

Many are welcoming family and friends to their homes this holiday weekend. Hospitality in the Middle East is not, however, simply a nice gesture; it is necessary for survival. As we celebrate the freedom we enjoy as a nation, we need to be reminded of the image reflected in these words engraved at the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor:

***“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled
masses yearning to breathe free...”
(from Emma Lazarus’ “New Colossus”)***

As Christians, we recognize that the stranger we welcome into our homes is Christ. The saving waters of baptism have forever changed our vision of the world. It does not mean that we ignore evil or the dangers that threaten our security; but it demands that we tackle the problems that confront us with an openness to God’s grace — to the possibility of being surprised by whom we discover in our neighbor!

Yours in Christ,

Father William Foley

Things to Ponder for Sunday, July 8, 2018

School Is Never Out

By Judi Moreo

It happens every summer. While idle minds are still daydreaming of ways to beat the summer heat, the ads start to appear on television, in our mailboxes, on the internet and in every store. From paper and pencils to lamps and rugs for dorm rooms, it seems everyone has something we need for "back-to-school."

We think of school as a time of learning and, all too often, think that when we graduate from high school, college or grad school we know everything we need to know to be successful. The reality is that school is never out. Learning is a lifelong process.

Those who are committed to learning throughout their lives are more creative, take more initiative, and are more responsive to their circumstances and situations. Constant learning helps to better manage uncertainties, negotiate conflicts and communicate with people from diverse cultural, socio-economic and educational backgrounds. Lifelong learning has become more important in the information age. People who stop their education when they leave school will soon be left behind.

If you are not already committed to learning, there are some things you can do to help get yourself in the habit.

Start each day with something new. Make time in your morning routine to read. Set aside a half hour at the beginning of your day when your mind is fresh to read a book or informational article. Newspapers and magazines don't count unless the article is specifically related to a topic in your field of work or special interest. Get up a few minutes earlier and allow yourself to learn something new.

Always have a book with you. It's easier these days to carry your library with you. With e-books on your i-phone, i-pad or kindle, you can access your reading material anywhere, anytime. Make use of the time you spend waiting at the doctor's office, in long lines or waiting for someone at the airport. The more you read, the more you learn and the more you will want to read.

Teach someone else. Pass on what you have learned. Sharing your new found knowledge will help to make it something that will stick with you. We often learn best by teaching someone else.

Join a special interest group. Join a book club, enroll in an art class, take yoga classes. Expand your knowledge and skill in your current interests and passions or discover something new. When you join a group, you learn not only from the instructor, but from other members of the group as well.

Associate with people who are interested in learning. Spend time with other people who invest time in learning new skills. Their habits will rub off on you. The added bonus

is the sharing of knowledge that occurs.

School is never out. Get out your pencils and books. The pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons leads to a more active, successful life.

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