

## Pandemic Experience

It has not been easy for me to write these inserts these days. I must recommend to you that you go to the internet and look to the parish site for any writings that you may wish to read. In this writing I will simply write about the various bits and pieces that I have saved from some source or other.

## Living our life in the Spirit

Throughout this pandemic we have been living in difficult times. Most of us surely feel the effects of being confined to being in place, trying to avoid a terrible virus. As we live this experience I am reminded of a passage in St. John. The Lord gives us through him a message as our Friend. He tells us: us Do not let your hearts be troubled. We received this message in activating our faith and hope. We must believe that Jesus is present to us. That gives us hope even in hard times of day or night. And we should not forget that it is truly a message of love. His love can comfort us, console us, and help us.

In this time, we live a life that is, as I have often said, a journey from God to God. At my advanced age that is a truth that is compelling. In this time, I know that I have to love the Lord. To do so means to keep his commands. Loving God seems easy enough. Loving the neighbor is always a harder challenge.

His presence to us may be lacking for some of us in some aspects. We do not easily find Him in the Eucharist. Yet He is with us in other ways. We have not been left without Him, as orphans. His grace or power is at hand. Our baptism powers can be made to come alive. We can make our acts of contrition so perfectly that we find salvation a reality.

I also find myself aware at time that the Spirit is with me. I hope you find Him, too. He brings us so many gifts. Wisdom, understanding, knowledge....So many fruits of graces, like innocence, consolation etc....

In these days ahead we may need great support to activate our Catholic faith. Radicals have come alive in our midst and wish to bring about a devaluation of our religious freedom, which requires freedom of speech and much else we have had for years. Yet we must not be afraid. God will be with us

## Father Michael McGivney, a New Blessed

On Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> Father McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus will be beatified. The Catholic Register has dedicated a page in telling his story. He died at 38 years. His priestly life was one of helping the needy, especially assisting the poor and founding the group we know as the Knights of Columbus.

The miracle for his beatification [ a necessity] was of an infant in the womb, healed of a life-threatening condition in 2015. He has had lesser miracles attributed to his intercession. They have fallen into categories: family reconciliation, employment and finances, return to the faith and substance abuse. He was concerned about these things while living.

Priests will be happy to have such an intercessor to assist them in their work. His title may well be "Protector of Christian Family life." Let us hope more Catholic men join the Knights of Columbus and participate actively in their many good works as best they can. To them I offer my congratulations for the success of their many prayers to have this beatification take place. It will be in Hartford, Connecticut and can be seen on EWTN at 10:00 A.M.

### Listening

When I have been able to visit my friend, Bishop Mengeling of Lansing, he has the habit of giving me some advice on what to write in my inserts. He once gave me some hints about listening. Let me share some of them.

In our prayers we have the habit of saying many words. In our liturgy there are moments when we can very well listen. To what? The Word of God in the revelation being read to us. To whom? To the Spirit Who likes to give us gifts of understanding. To Jesus, present in the Word. At the Transfiguration the apostles are told: "This is my beloved Son, listen to Him." This was a prophetic vision. St. John Paul noted that it has great significance. It is a vision of authority, telling us firmly what we are to do.

Have you found the answer to the question: who listens to me? I won't tell you, but I think you know who always listens.

Jesus listened to the Father. The apostles listened to Jesus. Jesus leads us to Glory, which comes from listening to the Lord. We have teaching given us that leads to salvation. Here that we are told: everyone who calls on the Lord will be saved. (Rom 10,13) But how can we call on Him if we do not believe? How can we believe if we have not heard Him, have not listened to Him?

### What is in a Name?

Persons in ancient cultures believed that knowing the name of another put that person in their power. The name meant power. We begin our prayers with the Sign of the Cross. In the name ... giving them a powerful connection to God in the names we use for Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus is called Teacher, Rabbi, Master, and Ruler. Yet we know we can call Him our Friend, our Brother. These are powerful names and give us much to think about. We go from being ignorant of the moral law when we listen to Jesus as teacher and Rabbi. In difficult circumstances in times like these - do you hear what Jesus says to you: I no longer call you my servants; you are my friends!

May you find joy and blessing as you listen to His quiet whisper: I love you.

*Monsignor Morrison*