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- Psalm 119:105

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Parishioners

Parishioners

Parishioners
December 14, 2014
Third Sunday of Advent

ASK...AND THEN LISTEN!

"So they asked Him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?....Are you the Prophet?" (John 1: 21)

Making conversation is an art, and we have known our share of folks who just can't do it. All of us have spent some time pondering this and it has been decided that the core of it is all about asking questions. The worst conversationalists, it seems, are unable to move outside of themselves and actually ask a question of another person in the room.

But questions are more than useful conversation starters. Those gathered at the River Jordan peppered John the Baptist with questions and so learned about the One to come, their Savior. Think of how many of Jesus' parables were told in response to a question.

The first few paragraphs of one of the greatest prayers of all, St. Augustine's Confessions, is nothing but questions for God. What would prayer be like if we asked more questions? If we set aside our interior monologues, let the questions we have emerge, and then....listened?

Father, I come to you with questions burning in my heart.
Dear parishioner,

I’m home --- I guess that matters if you knew I was in the hospital for six days. I was and I just returned home last night.

If you were at mass last weekend or read my Weekly Post last week, you know on Wednesday I went for a doctor’s appointment for my acute bronchitis. When I was being checked in they discovered I had a very high heart rate and, after some comical white coat intervention, I was on my way to UTMC (University of Toledo Medical College) in an ambulance.

Eventually, after lots of test, including gallons of lost blood, thousands of needle pokes, and several cardio tests, I was diagnosed with several ailments including the most significant - my heart out of sinus rhythm. To correct this I underwent a cardioversion on Monday afternoon, where my heart was shocked back into rhythm. You’ll notice the difference when I walk down the aisle. All of this was precipitated by the acute bronchitis and an undiagnosed and untreated sleep apnea.

Now you’ll get my, “I’m not a doctor, but I slept at a Holiday Inn Express last night,” explanation of the why of all this. Stop reading now if you’re not interested.

You see…..your heart and your lungs are partners in the oxygen business. The lungs get the O2 (scientific term for oxygen) and send it to the heart, which, in turn, sends it to the rest of the body. Because of the acute bronchitis and the sleep apnea, my lungs were not getting enough O2 and therefore unable to transfer sufficient O2 to the heart.

The heart, sensitive but greedy, noticed there wasn’t enough O2 and started panting for more – going faster and faster eventually pushing itself out of rhythm. The dangerous consequences of this are the development of clots, because blood is not being pushed around correctly and the consequent possibility of strokes. Neither of which is in my plans at the time.

Fortunately, the cardio version was a success and my heart is working fine now. Even better the doctor told me that after this I am unlikely to experience a rapid heart rate again and even if I do, I’ll probably never develop clots. Don’t ask me why, it wasn’t covered in the seminar at Holiday Inn. The only lasting effect is that I’ll be on a blood thinner for thirty days. Then it’s all behind me.

Well, not quite behind me. I did mention that there are several other consequences of my bronchitis. In addition to the lungs inefficiently collecting and transferring O2, it was accompanied by a severe cough. Having the bronchitis for over two months meant the cough was able to dig in, become independent of the bronchitis and trash the tissue in my throat and larynx. So, the cough persists – even though my lungs are now clear of bronchitis and functioning well.

The doctor told me that it will take some time for the cough to subside with medication and then, when it is finally gone, about 2 to 3 weeks for new tissue to form.

This leads to my “disability” – the “not being able to walk down the aisle to show off my rhythm.” Whenever I talk my cough is activated which in turn makes me unable to talk and very, very hoarse. So, the way of dealing with this is not talking (ok, get it over with, I know your thinking – “Aren’t we lucky.” Just say it.) I’m hoping that this will improve soon, but it’s just going to take time. Until I’m able to get through a conversation without coughing, there won’t be daily mass and I’ll continue to have other priests in for Sunday masses.

Finally, the last medical consequence of my bronchitis is that, resulting from over eight weeks of steroid therapy, I didn’t develop a Charlie Atlas body but did develop diabetes. It just so happens that diabetes is a rather common side effect of steroids. So, now one of my many new drugs is insulin. Fortunately, this too is not expected to be a permanent condition. I am still on steroids and will be for about a month. Once that therapy is concluded and all those steroids in my body skedaddle (scientific term for “beatin’ feet outa here”) the diabetes will eventually rectify itself and I’ll be free of the insulin.

There you have it, my “Holiday Inn Express” lecture. I told you to stop reading. I hope to see you around, but it won’t be as a presider at mass for awhile.

Thanks to all of you who have reached out a helping hand this past week. The Vereecke’s and Sandi Ruth for taking care of the Friday lecture series luncheon, the Witt’s and Mello’s who picked up my car at the doctor’s office and put away the groceries that were in it and brought me my Ipad, the parish staff for covering for me so well that people didn’t know I was gone (not sure that looks so good for me), the Oblates for filling in in a pinch and, especially, all your support and prayers. They really worked.

I hope you have a great weekend and continue to have a blessed Advent.

Fr. Jack
**SCHEDULED MASSES WITH INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Saturday, December 20

Vigil

4:00 PM - St. Peter
In memory of Helen Vergote
by Charlie & Brenda Nagy

5:30 PM - St. Alphonsus
In Memory of Corrie Thornburgh
by John & Laura Dillon

Sunday, December 21

8:00 AM - St. Alphonsus
In memory of Harley Sharrock
by Family

11:00 AM - St. Peter
In memory of Shirley Shusta
by the Shusta Family

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

The ministry schedule for January, February and March will be done soon. Please submit any dates that you will NOT be available by Tuesday, December 16 by using the online program, emailing lgoodin@cass.net or call Leanne at the office, 447-3500 ext. 13.

There are still several openings that need to be filled for all masses on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Please check out the schedule online and sign up if you are able, or contact Leanne.

**SUPPORT RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**

“Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry,” writes a religious sister. Your gift to today’s collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious provides vital support for the retirement needs of senior sisters, brother, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure that younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

**VICARIATE ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

Dec. 14 Light of Christ, Deerfield 3:00pm
Dec. 14 St. Elizabeth/St. Dominic @ St. Elizabeth, Tecumseh 7:00pm
Dec. 15 St. Rita, Clarklake 7:00pm
Dec. 17 St. Joseph, Adrian 7:00pm
Dec. 18 St. Joseph Shrine, Brooklyn 7:00pm

**CHOIR REHEARSALS & PERFORMANCES**

Tues., 12/16 cantors 6:30/choir 7:00 (for 12/20 @ 5:30)
Tues., 12/23 cantors 6:30/choir 7 (for 12/24 @ 8:00 and 12/27 @ 5:30)
(All Rehearsals in Deerfield)

**STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

November 29/30, 2014

Total Sunday: $5,068.04
Total Loose: $295.00

CCHD: $75.00
Mercy Fund: $150.45
Retired Religious: $380.64
Christmas Flowers: $674.00

Total Envelopes: 267

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS**

Please call the parish office if you would like to receive the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which can be done before/after mass, at your home or in the hospital. Also, if you or someone you know is on the above list and no longer needs to be, please contact the office.

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**LETS US PRAY FOR THE WEEK**

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2014
Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11
1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24
John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2014
2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a,16
Romans 16: 25-27
Luke 1: 26-38

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

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