

Sacrifice

A 10-year-old boy entered a café and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. 'How much is an ice cream sundae?' the boy asked. 'Four dollars,' replied the waitress. The boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and carefully counted his coins. 'Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?' he asked. The waitress replied a little impatiently, 'Three dollars and fifty cents,' she said. The little boy again checked his coins. 'I'll have the plain ice cream,' he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished his ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed beside the empty dish, was fifty cents. You see, he couldn't have the sundae because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

This is a story about kindness, and right now we need plenty of kindness. But it is also a story of sacrifice. All too often loving others involves a degree of sacrifice, and I guess that's what makes it so meaningful.

'And I say to the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.' 2 Thessalonians 3:13.

Christmas Trees

We live in difficult and frustrating times, and I say that anything that lifts the spirits must be a good thing. Well, last week we put up our Christmas tree! Now, you might think this is a tad early, but it certainly brings a festive air to our home and a few smiles to the younger members of the household, and even I might add, to those of us (all two of us) of a more advanced vintage.

I actually have some scientific study to back me up. A psychoanalyst wrote that putting up Christmas decorations early 'acts as an anchor or pathway to those childhood magical emotions' and so ultimately makes you happier. Admittedly, he probably didn't have October in mind when he wrote that!

I grant you that Advent is traditionally the time to carry out this task, but these are exceptional times. One cautionary word – I probably wouldn't use a real tree. Might be looking somewhat past its use by date by December 25th.

Time for a Smile

The following statements were written by children in religious studies classes in a particular school.

'The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.'

'Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.'

'Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.'

Word for Today

The latest edition of Word for Today has arrived. If you would like me to post you a copy, please let me know. I am more than happy to do so.



(See Exodus 14)

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I THINK THAT YOU HAVE SOME SERIOUS FAITH ISSUES

To Ponder

'If God can work through me, he can work through anyone.' St Francis of Assisi.

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