

11.9.2019

KINDNESS

Please God By Serving Others

Think about the adage: "Wherever there is a Human Being, there is an opportunity for Kindness". Kindness is by far the most powerful, least costly and most underrated agent for human change. Yet it is the one of the least likely responses from we humans when we encounter difficult people, bad situations and life in general.



As we approach the Thanksgiving Season and the sometimes dreaded Family Thanksgiving Meal, we need to remember that Kindness should be ever at the ready to become exposed from our hearts. Many times this meal becomes the source of unexpected pain, embarrassment or even anger in the midst of a celebration of the gifts of plenty we have from God. We should be mindful to "put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience," Colossians 3:12

Knowing that we are loved by God and bending our will to His, allows his Spirit to reside in our hearts. Undeniably it is the goodness of God abiding in us that makes us likable and able to touch others in a positive, indeed holy manner, which allows for a change of heart to take place in those lives that we touch. When we take a moment to give away a sample of Jesus, that goodness that abides in us, we Bless another's life.

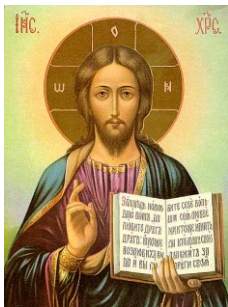


God created each of us with the capacity to love and show love. It is up to us let loose those divine positive forces that are inside us that not only make us likeable and lovable, but allows us to Please God. That is after all why we are here: To Know, Love and Please God.

As we approach the Thanksgiving Table this year, let us keep in the forward of our hearts: Sympathy for those who hurt, patience with those who stumble, compassion for those who fail, generosity with those who struggle, encouragement for those who try their best, respect for the differences in others, and admiration for those who give of themselves.

What happens to our lives when we make a shift in our attitude and admit that Jesus is our Savior and invite Him into our heart of hearts? Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture, our Catechism and in Modern Comment.

"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it." William Arthur Ward

**Ephesians 5:8-13, 15-17, 20 – Duty to Live in the Light**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible. Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the opportunity, because the days are evil.

Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord. Giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Matthew 17:1-8 – Please God: Study/Follow Jesus's Example

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone.

The Word of the Lord

**Catechism****2447 - Works of Mercy are Pleasing to God**

The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are Spiritual Works of Mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The Corporal Works of Mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

2462 - Please God

Giving alms to the poor is a witness to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

1721 - Know, Love and Serve God

God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. Beatitude (supreme blessedness) makes us "partakers of the divine nature" and of eternal life. With beatitude, man enters into the glory of Christ and into the joy of the life in the Holy Trinity.



Modern Comment

Kind Acts Make the World Less Mean

Written by Robin Swoboda in Akron Beacon Journal, 2019

Recently my daughter Halle got the surprise of her life. She is a server who gets chewed out because someone's egg isn't cooked to perfection or the toast isn't buttered all the way to the crust. She always smiles and tries to make it right. If I were the one doing the serving, I'd say something like "What do you expect for \$1.99?" before dumping the plate on their head, then walking out and making sure I got into the right car.

I've always heard and put into practice that you should tip breakfast servers more because, traditionally, breakfast is the cheapest meal you can eat out. I was never good at math but I do know that 20 percent of 1.99 is 40 cents. Sometimes they leave her 50 cents. Sometimes they leave her nothing.

Thank goodness she has a table of regulars who take care of her. And this is where the silver lining comes in. It's a group of smart and robust retirees who are always kind, thoughtful and big tippers. Recently she learned that their kindness extends far beyond the breakfast counter.

I was out of town when I noticed that I'd missed three phone calls from her, followed by a text that read S.O.S. I immediately called her. With her 20-month-old crying in the background, she explained that she was at the mall and her car wouldn't start.

My first question was "Are you in the right car?" since she drives a gray SUV, and we all know the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. (Robin sometimes gets into the correct color and make of cars, but not necessarily hers). I told her that I was out of the area and having dinner with friends. "There is nothing I can do. Call your brother. He has a AAA card."

She and the baby got a ride home, leaving the car in the Summit Mall parking lot. It was still there the next day when she had to go to work. As usual, her group of regulars asked her how she was doing. She fought back the tears as she told them the saga of her now lifeless car abandoned at Summit Mall.

The regulars asked for her keys so they could take a look at it. Well they did more than just look at it. When they discovered the culprit was a dead battery, they bought her a new one. They even filled her tires up with air.

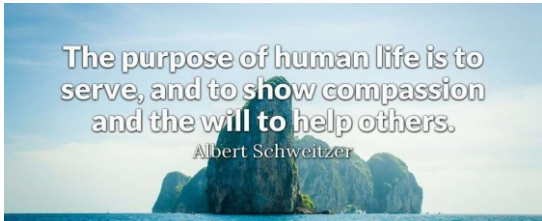
They might have done more but as she told me the story, she was crying and I was crying and all our blubbering made each word hard to understand.

But there is no misunderstanding this. The world may well be full of jerks whose only purpose in life seems to be belittling others or people complaining because they need something to complain about. Those people are like salt in a wound.

But our world is also peppered with people who are good and kind and gracious and thoughtful and who go out of their way to serve a very grateful young woman who serves them breakfast.

When she tried to pay them back, they refused. "We are like your work dads," they said. "That's just what men do."

Real men. Real people. Real kindness.



The purpose of human life is to
serve, and to show compassion
and the will to help others.

Albert Schweitzer

Questions for Discussion:

1. Has anybody ever made an investment of Kindness in your life that has caused you to inspire others by helping them? Please share an example that comes to mind.

2. Before the Thanksgiving meal, it is common to ask the group gathered, "What do you have to be thankful for?" What would you say at the upcoming Thanksgiving table?

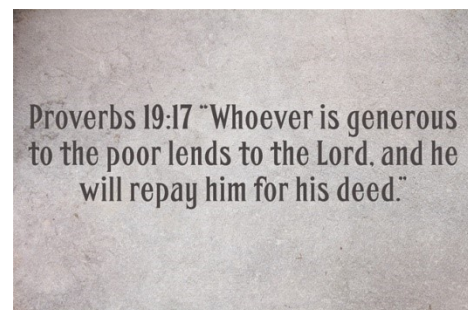
**WHEN DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS,
ONE'S LIFE IS ENRICHED FAR BEYOND ONE'S INITIAL INVESTMENT.**

Men's Group Calendar

A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.



11/23/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
12/14/2019	Men's Group	7 AM Mass
12/21/2019	Leadership Meeting	8 AM Sacred Heart Library
1/11/2020	Men's Group	7 AM Mass



ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to listen to God's will in my life by:

- Creating a daily prayer practice.
- Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence.
- Paying more attention to God's Blessings in my life.
- Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant.
- Pleasing God by giving Blessings away willfully.



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself. Forgive me – the sinner that I am, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son. Come dwell in my heart.

Send forth your Holy Spirit to guide me in your path. Make me worthy of your love, and teach me how to forgive as you forgave.

Thank you for your tender mercies. I ask you to bless my family, friends and those who I meet in my comings and goings.

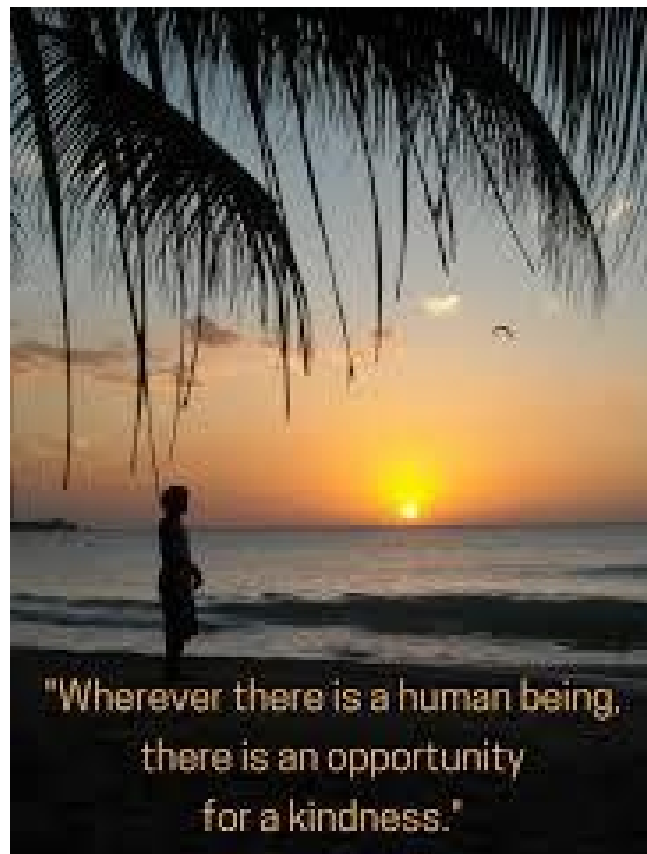
Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release in them a renewed confidence. Fill their every need with your Holy Grace.

You are indeed my Lord, God and Savior. Amen

For where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them.
Matthew 18:20

May God Bless You.
St. Hilary Men's Group

Dear Jesus, let me become a Man more Pleasing to Thee. It is in this endeavor that I may be perfected and thus gain a place with the Communion of Saints in Heaven. May I be a Blessing to others. Amen.



FAITH PLEASURES GOD AND IS THE KEY TO VICTORY

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must (an imperative necessity) believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.