

4.12.2014

TIME FOR SELF / OTHERS / GOD

The Gifting of Ourselves

As the Lenten Season draws to a close, we recognize the need to have a clear head, body and heart for God. Part of that realization is the recognition and reflection that a time for a change of heart is at hand in each of us. Moreover, we need to decide to live the experience God has called us to. Thus, as we Gift Ourselves, a direct impact on enriching and altering lives occurs.

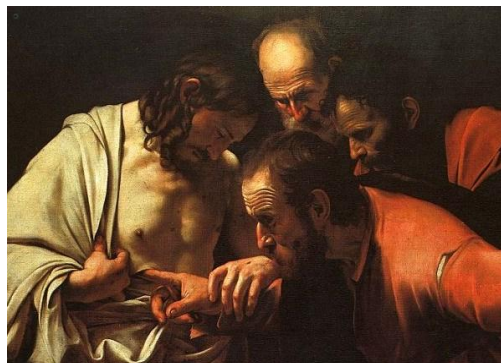
The concept of the Butterfly Effect, that is the notion that small events can have large, widespread consequences, plays directly with God's plan for us. You see, we touch each other's lives each day; we can choose to do God's work on Earth and touch lives positively or we can deny God and enrich ourselves. The smallest kindness we give to one another can transform lives. The largest gift we can give, our time, has the greatest impact.



God calls us ceaselessly...He speaks to us and calls us through the conversations of good people, or from sermons, or through the reading of good books; and there are many other ways. God calls us through sickness and trials, or by the means of truths which God teaches us at times when we are engaged in prayer; however feeble such prayers may be, God values them highly. **Saint Teresa of Avila**

God promises us Joy and living an Abundant Life. Should we not consider sharing these gifts with the many others he gives to us? Saint Teresa tells us we need to pray and listen to the word of God. What does the Wisdom of God tell us in terms of expectations, and thus becoming a better servant of Christ.

Let us listen attentively to the wisdom found in Holy Scripture and our Catechism.



Ephesians 5:15, 17

Watch carefully then how you live, not as foolish persons but as wise, making the most of the time... Therefore, do not continue in ignorance, but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant.

A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build.

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces.

A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away.

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak.

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

The Word of the Lord

Catechism

926 – Time for God?

Religious life derives from the mystery of the Church. It is a gift she has received from her Lord, a gift she offers as a stable way of life to the faithful called by God to profess God's Guidance, Instruction and Council. Thus, the Church can both show forth Christ and acknowledge herself to be the Savior's bride. Religious life in its various forms is called to signify the very charity of God in the language of our time.

2767 – God Give Life to One Who Spends Time with Him

This indivisible gift of the Lord's words and of the Holy Spirit who gives life to them in the hearts of believers has been received and lived by the Church from the beginning. The first communities prayed the Lord's Prayer three times a day, in place of the "Eighteen Benedictions" customary in Jewish piety.





TIME

Jack and Mr. Belser

It had been some time since Jack had seen the old man. College, girls, career, and life itself got in the way. In fact, Jack moved clear across the country in pursuit of his dreams. There, in the rush of his busy life, Jack had little time to think about the past and often no time to spend with his wife and son. He was working on his future, and nothing could stop him.

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

"Jack, did you hear me?" "Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said.

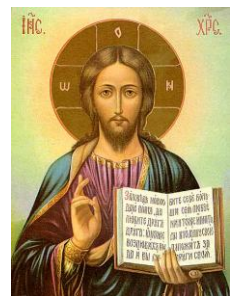
"Well, he didn't forget you Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing.. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said. "You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important...Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door, one more time.



Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture.... Jack stopped suddenly.

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked. "The box is gone," he said "What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox. "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read.

Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

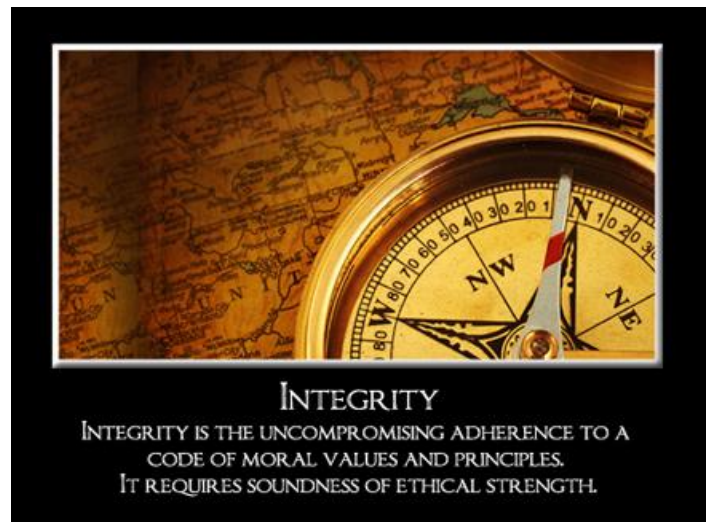
Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved:

"Jack, Thanks for your time! -Harold Belser."

The thing he valued most...was...my time

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with my son," he said. "Oh, by the way, Janet...thanks for your time!"



Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away.

Questions to Focus on:

1 Who are the people who have affected your life because they gave you their time? A Mr. Belser in your life? Explain.

2 Describe one of your fondest memories of spending family time together.

3 If you were told that you have 90 days to live, how would you spend those days? Would you do anything differently than today?



A Man who never quits is Never Defeated.
We are ordinary men who labor for Christ.

Be Wise in Your Use of Time

The Question of Life is not, How much time we have? The Question that God asks is, What shall we do with it?

For, the Measure of a Man's Life is the Spending of it, Not the Length.

May God Strengthen us for the Tasks He Wishes Us to do for Him.

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



Lord, God and Savior, by your love you draw me to yourself, forgive me, and fill me with every good thing, not withholding even the gift of your most beloved son.

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 forgive. Amen

Men's Group Calendar

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|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 4/12/2014 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |
| 4/26/2014 | Leadership Meeting | 8 AM Sacred Heart Library |
| 5/10/2014 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |
| 5/24/2014 | Leadership Meeting | 8 AM Sacred Heart Library |
| 6/14/2014 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |
| 6/28/2014 | Leadership Meeting | 8 AM Sacred Heart Library |
| 7/12/2014 | Men's Group | 7 AM Mass |

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16



ACTION PLAN

This week I will do my best to be a Man of Integrity by:

Creating a daily prayer practice

Seeking God in prayer and being quiet in His presence

Asking God for strength to resist temptation and sin

Paying more attention to Blessing those in my life as God intends

Asking Jesus for help in becoming a better servant

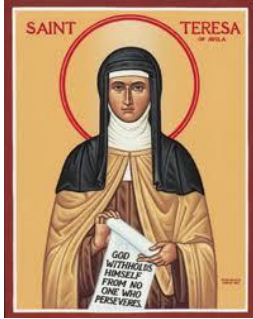


*Lord, help me to pray not as an exercise of my will,
but a surrender to Yours.
Thank You for Your goodness to me.
Amen*

A Godly Action Plan from an Unlikely Source: George Carlin

- † Remember to spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.
- † Remember to say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person will soon grow up and leave your side.
- † Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.
- † Remember to say "I love you" to your partner and your loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside of you.
- † Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment, for someday that person will not be there again.
- † Give time to love! Give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.
- † And always remember: life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.





Let nothing disturb you and nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Nothing is wanting to him who possesses God. God alone suffices. **Saint Teresa of Avila**

TEN THINGS GOD WON'T ASK ON THAT DAY WHEN HE CALLS YOU HOME

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet, but how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
5. God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had, but how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God won't ask about how much you spoke to people, but how much time you listened.
8. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
9. God won't ask about the color of your skin, He'll ask about the content of your character.
10. God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven, and not to the gates of Hell.

