

Message from the Rector

Dear People of God,

A Blessed and Happy July 4th weekend to all!

Does our life have a balance between work, play, prayer and relationships? Specifically, are God, prayer, family and friends core Gospel values? Is Sunday liturgy a priority with my family (realizing now might be a televised mass) or do other “more important” things take a front row seat? Work and other commitments are important, but a relationship with God (rooted in prayer), family, Faith Community and friends hold life together. Balancing all the responsibilities and areas of life is a lifelong quest. The following story powerfully connects in ways we may have never imagined. Enjoy . . . and pass it on . . .

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, “God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!”

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, “That’s what’s wrong with this country. Kids today don’t even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why I never!”

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, “Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?” As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my son and said, “I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer.” “Really?” my son asked. “Cross my heart,” the man replied.

Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), “Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes.”

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the

woman. With a big smile he told her, “Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already.”

What a wonderful story! We sometimes need to reach out to a hurting world (especially these last four months) in ways which reflect God’s presence in our midst and ice cream is good for the soul! I hope God sends you an ice cream carrier today!

And many times actions speak louder than words . . . keep reading . . .

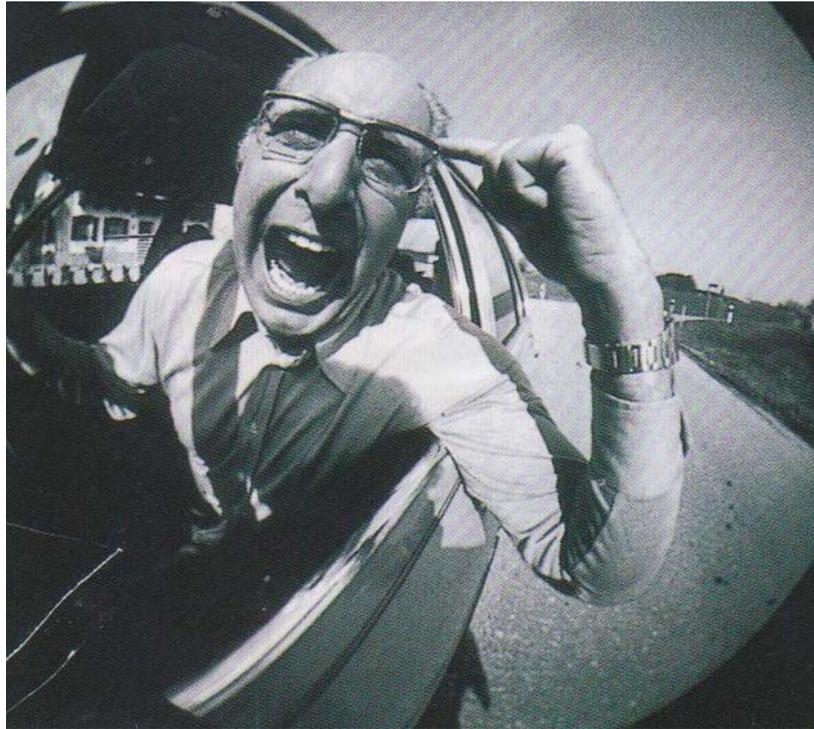
There were four clergymen discussing the merits of the various translations of the Bible. One liked the King James version because of its simple, beautiful English. Another liked the American Revised version best because it is more literal and came nearer to the original Hebrew and Greek. Another liked the New American Bible translation because of its up-to-date vocabulary. The fourth minister was silent. When asked to express his opinion, he replied, “I like my mother’s translation best.”

The other three expressed surprise. They did not know that his mother had translated the Bible. But he assured them, “She translated it into life, every day of her life, and it was the most convincing translation I ever saw.”

Summer blessings,

Fr. Greg

Cartoon on next page



“I never use turn signals. It’s nobody else’s business where I’m going!”