



November 17, 2024

Dear People of God,

The weather in Chicago has been beautiful the last few months, with above-average temperatures. However, it will soon begin to change, as November will soon give way to December cold and possible snow. Seasons change, and so do our lives, which take on a new meaning as we grow older. I share the following....a message to ponder at the current stage of our lives.

Back Nine

You know, time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my spouse. Yet, in a way, it seems like it was eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But here it is -- the 'back nine' of my life, and it catches me by surprise. How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go, and where did my youth go? I remember vividly seeing older people through the years and

thinking that those older people were years away from me and that 'I was only on the first hole' and the 'back nine' was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But here it is...many of my friends are retired and getting grey. They move slower, and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me, but I see the significant change. Not like the ones I remember who were young and vibrant, but like me, their age is beginning to show, and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd become.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real goal! Taking a nap is not a treat anymore; it's mandatory! Because if I don't do it of my own free will, I fall asleep where I sit!

And so, now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did! But at least I know that though I'm on the 'back nine,' and I'm not sure how long it will last, I know for sure that when it is over on this earth, it is not really over. A new adventure begins!

So, if you're not on the 'back nine' yet, let me remind you that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you want to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether you're on the 'back nine' or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life, so live for today and say everything you want your loved ones to remember. I hope they appreciate and love you for everything you have done for them in all the past years!

Life is a gift from God, and all gifts are gifts. And always remember—our being here on earth is God's gift to us. What we do with our lives is our gift back to God. Make it count!

In a reflective November mood,

Fr. Greg

P.S. This Monday (November 18), Holy Name Cathedral will celebrate its 175th Anniversary as a parish. All are invited to the noon Mass to mark this historic date. The Chicago City Council passed a resolution declaring November 18 as Holy Name Cathedral Day. We will receive the resolution during the Mass.

In addition, I invite you to attend the 12:30pm Mass next Sunday (November 24), which Cardinal Blase Cupich will preside over and which will launch our 175th Anniversary yearlong celebration!

Congratulations to Cardinal Cupich, who will celebrate his 10th Anniversary as the 9th Archbishop of Chicago tomorrow (November 18). Thank you, Cardinal Cupich, for being our outstanding shepherd and leader. Ad multos annos! Your deep faith, pastoral care, love for God's people, dedication, hard work, commitment, vision, and humor are deeply appreciated and profoundly impact the Church in Chicago and beyond our Archdiocese.

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A Little Humor from the Rector



“The people who make fitted sheets need to sit down with the people who make mattresses and get on the same page!”