

From The Pastor

I continue my vacation this weekend. I know you will warmly welcome our visiting priest. I copy\repeat this article from some years ago. I hope you find it helpful.

‘...as we wait in joyful hope.’ This doxology or hymn of praise to God is prayed at the end of the Our Father at each mass. One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is joy. Joy is a fruit of love that strengthens inner peace and inspires the virtue of hope. Joyful hope is the basic stance of those who put their trust in Jesus.

Do you know joy in your life? More than pleasure or happiness, joy is a quality of God evoked from the depth of one’s heart. One cannot decide to be joyful in the same way that one can choose a disposition of happiness in the face of life’s trials. None-the-less much can be done to create an inner environment that will draw one to the joy and presence of God. Something I read recently inspired me to identify ten ways toward joyful living. I hope they awaken in you the joyful hope of your baptismal life.

1. Be grateful. Life is a gift for which you paid nothing. Despite your troubles you got a great deal. Gratitude heals bitterness and resentment.
2. Look beyond yourself. Life is full of beauty. Hey, look up!
3. Express appreciation. Kindness heals. The power of love and affirmation are the strongest on earth. You are a rich blessing to the world.
4. Don’t have a holy cow over your mistakes. Any good mistake is worth its lesson learned. Most mistakes are opportunities not yet discovered.
5. Love and value yourself, and others. Service may feel like a demand on your time, but it is also a gift to yourself and others.
6. Accept criticism. Nobody is perfect and you won’t be the first. Any worthy criticism comes from someone who cares about you.
7. Be willing to change. Your first good idea or self-discovery shouldn’t be your last. Rigid people are rarely joyful, and often not even happy.
8. Life is hard. Don’t spend all your energy trying to avoid pain. Pain is a great teacher. Pain purifies the soul and reveals the truth of a person.
9. Remember you are part of something larger than yourself. Life is not about you or for you.
10. Pray. Your life is for and about God who created you. God’s goodness is more than you can imagine. Your goodness is more than you know.

Speaking of humor and not taking life so seriously, these ‘bloopers’ actually appeared in various church bulletins.

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa will be speaking tonight at Calvary Memorial Church in Racine. Come tonight and hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National Prayer and Fasting Conference: ‘The cost of attending the Prayer and Fasting Conference includes meals’.

Miss Charlene Mason sang, “I will not pass this way again” giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

“Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don’t forget your husbands.”

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Father Jack’s sermons.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hospitality.

Life sure is imperfect. Good thing we can laugh at our silly oversights. It is never a mistake to be nice. Tell someone you know how much you appreciate him or her.

God bless you all,

Father John Esper.