

Oct. 11-12, 2014

Thoughts from the pastor,

Have you done your good deed for the day yet? Have you ever stopped to wonder if it really did any good at all? What did it actually accomplish? For instance, I go for walks and try to pick up trash as I walk. It is certainly not a big thing. I'm sure that if I hadn't picked it up it would have blown away with the next breeze, probably into one of your yards. I'm also sure that twenty minutes after I picked it up, the wind blew something else to replace it, or someone dropped another candy wrapper or something.

If you look at things that way, our good deeds really are a waste of time. Bad things keep happening in the world. If you want to read a whole book of the Bible on this, just meditate on the Book of Ecclesiastes. It is very depressing. But as followers of Christ we should be looking at these good deeds in a different way.

Christ did good deeds throughout His ministry. They were a little more spectacular. He healed the sick, raised the dead, feed the hungry, etc. The problem is that the people He healed still ended up getting sick again and then dying. The ones He raised from the dead, just ended up dying on a later date. The people He fed got hungry again the next day. What was the point?

The answer depends on who Jesus really is. Notice I didn't say who we think He was but who He really is. If He was just a wise man then His good deeds really accomplished nothing. They were short term fixes that teach others to do short term fixes that really accomplish nothing. If He was a liar or the apostles were liars then we are really wasting our time. The same goes for the possibility that He was delusional and He and the apostles just thought he was the Son of God. The only thing that makes our good deeds have any meaning is if He really is the Son of God.

If He is bringing us into the possibility of being with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven then there is a reason for His asking us to love one another enough to do little and big good deeds for each other and for Him. For then my picking up something as simple as a candy wrapper is hopefully one of many acts of love that slowly transform me into a person that is open to His grace, which is His life, better known as love. He will take those simple acts of love and build virtues in us that will last for eternity. He will use the love in our hearts to build bonds between us and God the Father that will make us one with the Father just as Jesus is already one with the Father. His sacraments will make those simple acts of love a part of a far greater plan than we can even imagine.

This is totally different than looking at how the world still keeps filling up with sin each generation and everything seems pointless. That is actually what hell will be about. Everything there will be pointless. At best in hell we would live out eternity doing pointless things forever. But worse we would see each other as pointless and spend eternity going farther from each other or even worse making each other's lives miserable.

So if you haven't done a good deed today, you might want to plan one or more before the day is over.

God bless you all,
Fr. Frank