

Aug. 6-7, 2016

Thoughts from the pastor,

I have mentioned before that one of the main things that must be done in order to have a legitimate discussion about faith with someone is to make it an actual discussion. This can be blocked from both sides. They can block it from their side because they don't believe we are worth listening to. That is why I have offered the robot/maker analogy of human/creator as a possible way to open the door to the science people. But that is not always their block. To find out what that block might be we have to move our blocks out of the way for long enough to listen to what they believe. For most of the people I have worked with over the years, their blocks are not very well thought out. That doesn't change the fact that they hold on to them very tightly. But we must find out what they believe to help loosen those blocks.

Many of these people believe in the spiritual realm. That is what TV is full of. "I'm a spiritual person but I don't believe in that organized religion stuff." Find out what they mean by spiritual. Is it like the "Force" in Star Wars? Is it a feel good thing that comes when their conscience is not bothering them? Or do they believe in a spiritual level of reality like the paranormal phenomenon? It is important to find out where they think the spiritual level comes from. Is it beyond us? Or is it just a part of our imagination? Is it real? If it is real then where does it originate from? How could it have evolved for it is too vague to be a survival skill that comes from the Darwin survival of the fittest theory?

As Catholics we do believe in the spiritual and we believe it comes from God. He is spirit and he made us in His image so we have spiritual aspects to who we are. Last weekend I looked at how that spiritual connection with God was damaged by sin. It is no longer automatic like it was meant to be. In the robot or computer analogy it is like a programing glitch that makes it hard for us to interface with God. The connection is lost and the longer it goes on the harder it would be to make the connection because the programing can end up so flawed that it would no longer recognize the connection even if it was attempted. This happens with me when my computer can no longer interface with the printer. I hate when that happens.

God's plan involved having His Son be that interface. As fully divine and fully human Jesus can help us rebuild that connection with God. Jesus is necessary to help us understand our true purpose, for even that is lost in most of us as we deal with our flaws. Jesus had to show us that our purpose was meant to be more than just birth to death. It is from conception through eternity. We are meant to be with Him. But Jesus is not just a good example of how to live and die. He is actually the connection. Having a camera on a computer so it can "see" is not enough. If its programing is flawed then the meaning it would give to what it sees would be flawed, if it was even at the level of giving meaning to things.

So this leaves us with the question of how does Jesus make that interface happen? It would have to be something that is divine and human. The divine part would have to help us as humans to understand our maker in a way that is true to Him and true to our real purpose. As the creative creatures that God made us to be we have the amazing ability to come up with all sorts of alternative realities. We have even gotten to the point in our faulty programing in which we start to believe that we can create our own reality. Jesus would have to give us the true picture or it would be worthless just like our false ideas. So how does He do that? Well the answer is in what He taught and then started, which is the Church and the Sacraments. Stay tuned. That is the next part of the plan.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank