

Letter From The Pastor: Msgr. William L. Young, III



Dear Parishioners:

I am pleased to report that Fun Fest was again a big success. Saturday evening bingo was almost like being at Minute Maid Park. The crowd had a three-part bag of fun — a fajita dinner, bingo and the game. Cheering fans and squealing children make for a great time. We had a great crowd all during the day with a cornucopia of world foods. I think I tasted all the varieties.

Financially we netted a profit of \$120,000.

St. Paul reminds us to be sons and daughters of the light. After all, it is a constant theme of the Holy Writ that there are two paths — the path of light and the path of darkness. We are the children of the light because God is light. We will hear Gospels the next few Sundays about the end of the world. Jesus reminds us that this world is not the finality of life.

God has appointed a purpose for every human being at the moment of conception. In my mother's womb, when a sperm and an egg came together, God created at that moment a soul for my body. God knew at that moment, I would become a man and He gave me a soul for my body. God knows what he's doing.

The human soul is made by God for each person. The soul itself is immaterial and does not have a sex as does a body, but it is made for a masculine or feminine physical body. Souls are not sitting in a big bowl or channeled through a pin-ball machine, but instead are brought forth by Love's unique, personal act of creation for that particular body, as He did for you and me.

At that same time, Love also assigned us this purpose, to accomplish His holy will in a fashion no other can do as well. What care has been taken, for you or me, that the almighty Creator of the universe would be so kind as to place within you, within me, a grand purpose. The result of that purpose is to be with our Father in the fullness of our Creator's love.

In a few weeks we begin a new Liturgical Year by remembering salvation history and Love's intervention into this fallen world. God did not leave us to our own misfortunes; rather He took up our cause and sent His only begotten Son Jesus to be one with us in all things but sin. Jesus came to establish a Church to carry on Love's work and become the Priest and Victim to free us from sin. Love did this so we could reach our final purpose. Our telos is in the blessed happiness of the fullness of heaven.

Always keep in mind your final telos (purpose). While living in this *intermediate* time here on earth, keep in mind to make decisions that keep you on the true path. Sometimes in life things may appear to be just a little bit off course, and it won't add up to much. But these little things, however, over time add up, and you could miss the mark or find yourself with no time to get back on course.

You were made for a purpose — ultimately your birthright is heaven — choose the way to merit what is your destiny.

As we approach the end of the year, I am asking all to please seriously consider a special year-end financial gift to our parish. Our collection has fallen a bit for many reasons, and I understand some are financially stretched right now. All that said, your parish needs your help to push forward.

Remember that if you have a traditional IRA and turned 70 before July 1st, you must take a distribution from the fund. Tax law allows you to make the distribution directly to a 501-C3 organization, such as SVdP. The money from this distribution does not go through your account; in turn, you do not have to pay taxes on the distribution. If you choose this option, be sure to consult with your tax preparer to ensure a correct transfer. If you're anything like me, I prefer not to pay any tax I do not have to pay.

We are entering what can be a very hectic and tense time. Plan well ahead how you will celebrate these upcoming holidays. Most of all, let us prepare our hearts to receive once again the one who came not for himself, but for you and me.

God bless,

Msgr. Bill