

Sermon

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Exodus 22:20-26*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 22:34-40*

“you must love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” well now!!, so I have been given a heart, soul and mind, how do I use these super precious human commodities? I always associate the heart as the indicator of the emotions, for example, if ever you feel nervous or joyful or fearful etc., the heart has it's own way of expressing the emotion, no doubt you've picked up on certain expressions “she was heart broken”, “I felt a great relief in my heart” ; “oh! He's a very light hearted sort of guy”

The mind of course is the best computer of all! We store a ton of information in our mind ; Is there a distinction between the brain and the mind? Gosh! I've never worked that out yet! All I know is, the mind is a vast network of literally everything you can imagine, memory, concentration, continuous thoughts, decision making, desires, efficiency, movement, indicators galore, centre-of-learning, reactions, formulation of words and languages, free will, billions of cells are interconnecting 24 hours daily There's no end to the 2. greatness of the human mind(spare a thought and a prayer for those who suffer from mental illnesses).

Then there's the soul, how would you describe your soul?, fascinating!!, what does your soul look like?, is it round or square or slightly pear-shaped like the heart?

Where does the soul come from? In the Compendium(catechism) the answer is “the spiritual soul does not come from one's parents, but is created immediately by God and is immortal. The soul does not perish at the moment when it is separated from the body in death, and it will be once again reunited with the body at the moment of the final resurrection”

On the truth of the above definition of the nature of the soul, I often wonder what abortionists think as they go about aborting defenceless babies? No doubt, some fine day, they(the abortionists) will be asked by the Author of life about their industry, perhaps the souls of those they aborted will stand there before them, and observe.....

If our soul continues on alive, even after mortal death, then we are bound to keep it in the best shape possible

HOW? We have the answer in this Gospel reading “love the lord your God, with all your heart, mind and 3. soul” ; Is this within our reach? Of course it is, otherwise Jesus would not have presented his teaching to those who truly believed in him ; as you go about your business each day, do you see your fellow human beings loving God with all their heart, soul and mind?, Gosh!!, I don’t!!, matter of fact, it’s as if God dosen’t exist out there(..or perhaps I’m the odd-man-out..) many are blaming Him on the vast consequences of the present worldwide Pandemic, to the point of abandoning the Faith they once had “IF THERE IS A GOD, THEN HOW COULD HE HAVE ALLOWED THIS TO HAPPEN?” or “IF HE IS ALL POWERFUL, THEN WHY DOSEN’T HE GET RID OF THIS VIRUS AND GIVE US ALL A BREAK??” to blame God is an easy option, but who are any of us to “blame” the Creator and Owner of life? perhaps for others they have been waiting for an excuse to “bail out” of religion and go their separate ways, we are all free to do that and no one can stop us from making that decision, then WHERE TO AFTER THAT?, answer that one for yourself.....

But to love the lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind is something you and I have to decide on, there’s no place for indifference. To say “YES! I’LL DO IT, I’LL DO MY VERY BEST” great!, and so a unique spiritual 4.journey commences, a journey that will bring you joys, sorrows, great inner peace, tears and hope for wonderful eternal things to come! Is this what you have chosen? You’ll have to give it everything, your heart, soul and mind ; your “YES” has to be renewed every single day in prayer and sacrifice, you’ll find yourself IN the world but not OF the world, and the “many” friends you thought you had slowly drift into oblivion ; Does all this sound like a sad scenario?, I hope not, remember we are dealing with the God of life, Jesus once said “I CAME SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL”.

As a full time priest in a parish, I feel privileged when I regularly meet very ordinary people of outstanding holiness (NO!, not the “I holier-than-thou” type, keep a double social distance from these very strange individuals, with or without a pandemic around!!!) ; Real holy people are a great inspiration for everyone, they don’t “advertise” their holiness, they don’t have to, because it’s obvious to see just how much they love God, with all their heart, soul and mind ; for me, such people are my teachers ; I’ll conclude by quoting from the 1st verse of the psalm, the psalmist has discovered God as the One and Only!

“I LOVE YOU LORD, MY STRENGTH, MY ROCK, MY FORTRESS, MY SAV-
IOUR. MY GOD IS THE ROCK WHERE I TAKE REFUGE ; MY SHIELD, MY
MIGHTY HELP, MY STRONGHOLD. THE LORD IS WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE..”

.....please pray a Rosary this weekend for those who are now close to despair in this Pandemic thru’ no fault of their own, for those whose’ Faith has weakened because of crushing personal worries brought on by uncertainty, and are now left to deal with unforeseen financial burdens.....stay healthy.

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