

June 10-11, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

Last week I referenced the Star Wars line: “The Force be with you.” This week I would like to compare that with what has been revealed to us as Christians. We pray “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” Since we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity this weekend, we need to reflect on what we are to believe so that we don’t slip into any kind of lesser version that comes from our culture.

In Star Wars the Force is this vague and impersonal positive energy that pervades that imaginary universe. Then there is also the opposing force that others tap into called the “Dark Force.” Lord Vader fell into that trap because he was desperate for something to return him to power. The good news is that this imagery helps us keep in tune with the idea that there is good and evil. In a world that seems to be moving toward the idea of relativity, in which there is no right or wrong, this can actually be a positive thing. The bad news is that its image of the source of good as compared to our image of God is like comparing a AAA battery to the power of the sun. The idea of a good and evil force that we can tap into, because it is outside of who we are, is actually one minute aspect of God. But God is so much more.

Just think in terms of the Father. Because of divine revelation we know Him to be the creator of the universe. That is more than just an entity that made something and then said, Oops, I wonder how this is going to work out? We continue to explore the complexity, the patterns, the connectivity, the immensity, and the beauty of the universe. Just the simple concept that there is gravity so we don’t have to hold on to something every minute so we don’t fall up is worth contemplating, especially in how that force holds things together and makes galaxies, solar systems, planets and us possible. God knew what He was doing. There was no oops. But He is also Father. This means He wants to connect with us as His children, to protect and guide us to His home.

Then there is the Son. Jesus is not something that was revealed to us like the Father was. He walked with us. He lived and loved with us. Many people came to know Him personally. The idea that God is that interested in us is amazing considering that we are such a minute part of creation. The fact that He died and overcame death to show us that we are meant to be more significant than we can imagine is astounding. To reach to us and offer us a dignity as children of God, helps us realize that we are not just like a bunch of ants who could get stepped on and be gone in an instant. We are meant to be members of the royal family of God the Father in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We just celebrated Pentecost and were reminded of what the Holy Spirit is about. God’s Spirit of Love has come to each of us to draw us into God’s life. He knows each of us and what our battles with the evil in the world can be like. He is our Advocate and understands our sometimes pathetic attempts at prayer. He made us so the Apostles could connect with all those people from different countries with different languages. He still connects with each of us if we are open. This is all way better than the “Force be with you.”

Some quick notes. Fr. John is presenting this Sunday morning in the Parish Hall at 9:15am. I will have information summarizing that presentation soon. You will notice in this bulletin that there is a screening of the panel discussion on the movie HUSH. It investigates the effects of abortion on women’s health. That will be June 19 at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Your \$5 donation will go to help fund the UNO March for Life Trip. Our summer seminarian, Bill Cremers, will start his classes next Sunday, 6/18, at 9:15am in the Parish Hall. There will also be a Bible Study on Thursday evenings starting on June 22. It will go for four weeks. As I tell the children, don’t let your brains turn to mush over the summer.

God bless you,  
Fr. Frank