

A "Few" Simple Words from Fr. Robert



October 7, 2018

There's a Big Difference

There is a significant difference in the way that Catholics and many non-Catholic Christians understand funerals. Non-Catholic Christians believe that if a person is in Heaven they don't need our prayers and if a person is in Hell all the prayers in the world won't help them. Because of this many non-Catholic Christian funerals are more of a walk down memory lane. People get up and speak about their loved one. They tell stories and sometimes chuckle a little. They try and note edifying characteristics of the deceased to inspire their listeners and pay tribute to their loved one. You see, non-Catholic funerals are more about consoling those who remain and paying tribute to those who died.

Catholics have a very different understanding of funerals. From the very beginning of the Church, Catholics have prayed for the dead. If you go to the catacombs, the early-Christian cemeteries in Rome, you will see inscriptions over many tombs which say pray for me. Because Catholics believe in Purgatory, we also believe that our prayers in some wonderful providential way assist a person as they journey home to God. That's why we pray for the poor souls in Purgatory.

In some parts of the country the desire to eulogize a beloved deceased is creeping into Catholic funerals from other Christian churches. It's very understandable that people want to pay tribute to their loved one. While good intentioned, this practice risks changing the whole scope of a Catholic funeral. If you were ever to ask me if I wanted you to pray for me or tell edifying stories about me when I die, my response would certainly be, pray for me, please pray for me. Sharing stories and inspiring moments from the life of a loved one is very appropriate and important for a family. The living memory of our relatives is part of our family patrimony. Sharing your memories of a loved one should always happen at the wake or at the reception. It should never be done in church where our focus is and always should be on the prayers we offer for those we love.

Stand Up Catholic Columbus

On October 13th there will be two chances to give a public witness to our Faith. At 11 a.m. the Columbus Friars with members from all three of our parishes will pray the Rosary at Seneca, Choices for Life, located at 3900 Rosemont Drive in Columbus.

At 12 p.m. several parish organizations will also be praying the Public National Square Rosary outside at Holy Family Church along Veterans Parkway. It is our hope and our prayer that we will have a significant Catholic presence at both of these events.

Stuffers

As you can tell I feel that it is very important to regularly communicate with the parish. Many have told me that you are happy that I write in the bulletin every week. The bulletin and our electronic media are the primary ways we communicate with our parishioners. Because of the additional content I have been putting in our bulletin, it has been necessary to add an insert for more space. As the name implies, inserts have to be inserted. The ushers did it for a couple of weeks, but now they are growing tired. Is there anyone who would be available to come to the Parish Office on Thursdays or Fridays and help us get this done? If you are willing to help out, please call Bernadette in the Parish Office and let her know.

Styrofoam

For some reason there are boxes and boxes of Styrofoam in the Friary. We don't know what to do with it or how to dispose of it all. I've read that Styrofoam can last 500 years in a landfill and I understand if it's burned it creates toxic fumes. If anyone knows how we can responsibly dispose of all this Styrofoam, please let one of the friars know. We spoke to Publix and they only recycle the products they sell. We certainly want to be good stewards of Mother Earth and we just don't know what to do with all of this Styrofoam.

Outreach News

This past month, I had the pleasure of representing Catholic Charities of South Georgia at the Catholic Charities USA Annual Gathering in Buffalo, New York. Over 500 participants from all across the country gathered together to discuss immigration & migration, poverty, and health issues. I learned of many great efforts engaged through Catholic faith to assist those struggling to provide basic needs of housing, clothing and food for their families.

Attending the conference also brought to light the beauty of our ministry at St. Anne Community Outreach. Many of the regional Directors were amazed that we touch the lives of so many families (over 4,500 annually). They were impressed with the breadth of our services and our focus on helping others to help themselves - such as our return to work boot/shoe program and our two food co-ops. The Directors were surprised by the special effort to involve youth in our mission. We make this a priority by including high school students (Ian Poole and Avery Sutherland) on the Outreach Executive Board. Our VOLT program (Viking Outreach Leadership Team) at St Anne-Pacelli Catholic High School is a model for involving youth in ministering to the poor. Religious Education students are very involved in our mission. They not only assist with both Thanksgiving and Easter food basket programs, but in addition, this year 3rd and 6th grade students will visit Outreach for a more in-depth exposure to the needs of the poor. Youth volunteer through the after-school program for St. Anne-Pacelli Catholic School students, our drop-in Sundays volunteer program for parish youth, and our summer youth volunteering program.

However, what seemed to impress the Directors the most was the degree of Parish support provided to our Outreach center. The financial, spiritual, and volunteer support provided from the Friars, parish/school staff and parishioners of St. Anne Catholic Church is unmatched in any other agency. These gifts of time, talent and treasure are what allow our mission to be so successful. Thank you to all of you!

Anyone interested in learning more about Catholic Charities or St. Anne Community Outreach please contact me at outreach@sasphs.net.

Katie Byers, Director

Blessing of the Animals

St. Francis of Assisi abandoned a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. During his life he also developed a deep love of nature and

animals and is known as the patron saint of the environment and animals; his life and words have had a lasting resonance with millions of followers across the globe. Each October, many animals the world over are blessed on his feast day.



In honor of his Feast Day on October 4th, Fr. Mark and Fr. Manny blessed our families' animals on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. From dogs to chickens, St. Francis loved them all.

