



Rumblings from the Bunker

DID YOU GET YOUR PRESENT?

About this time thirty-five years ago I left home. Thus began an adventure that has taken many twists and turns. I have been a Brother, a teacher, a retreat giver, and now a priest. It has been very exciting and I have really enjoyed it. Of course there have been sad times and even a few dark days. The road has at times been quite rocky. Now and again I hit not only a pot hole but a few craters. In these times the love of family and good friends has been invaluable. That said, I have been wondering about my inner world because whatever about the outer physical journey that has taken me to the United States, Africa, Japan and other places there has of course been another journey evolving all the time. This is the journey of the heart. It includes the myriad of life experiences, and all the different relationships that have shaped me. Some of it is about, what the psychologists refer to as the maturation process: getting older. However there is a faith-filled question that needs to be asked here. In other words when we reflect on our inner journey is it simply about all that has happened to us and the people we meet? Is it not here that we encounter the Spirit within us? God's Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit within us that makes us restless. It makes us hungry. It nudges us forward towards something more, encourages us to move towards God

I am smiling as I recall the passage from Cider With Rosie, when the young Laurie Lee comes home from his first day at school and tells his family of his annoyance at not receiving a 'promised present.' Here he tells them about his disappointing day:

"They never gave me the present!"

"Present? What present?"

"They said they'd give me a present."

"Well, now, I'm sure they did'nt."

"They did! They said: 'You're Laurie Lee, ain't you? Well, just you sit there for the present.'

I sat there all day but I never got it. I ain't going back there again!"

It strikes me that this is a real danger for all of us. We could be sitting all day waiting on the present. Did you get your present? Or are you still waiting? Have you unwrapped it? What is it? Maybe you are still unpacking it? What is this present, this gift I am speaking of? The young Laurie Lee sat there waiting all day. If you have not yet found it, where might you look? One thing is for sure, and that is that people the world over, from time began, have been looking for it. Many cannot name, or explain the search but still have been driven by it. Sometimes I think of it as life's riddle, almost a conundrum to be grappled with. It might go something like this:

This 'present' we seek is in the past and the future but is most alive in the present. It is often confused with 'presents', and whilst it can be there, it is most essentially found in the Presence.

To many this will appear mumbo-jumbo but in reality it is at the centre of our longing. When we understand this, to the extent that understanding it is possible, it can give us a much clearer sense of life's meaning. On those occasions when we might find ourselves asking 'what is it all about?' this riddle or conundrum is the key. We will only be able to see how this 'present' was in our past, if we reflect and earnestly try to see it. This can be difficult. In terms of the future, and the notion of this 'present' or gift being there, when we get there ourselves, is also very difficult, perhaps more so. Yet, if we believed this, it could eradicate worry and anxiety from our lives. The big mistake of course, that we all make, is to think we will find it in 'presents'. The latest gadget, the new house, or car will all trigger good feelings that will allow us to feel we have got it! We have arrived! However as we know it is not long before we are again looking, looking for something more, the next new thing, the next thrill, the next fix! Perhaps the greatest mistake is to think that the end of the search, the end of the inner hunger can be found in another. When someone says to us 'you are everything to me', or 'you are my world', it can be very flattering. It can also be huge pressure, and quite daunting. This is not to deny the great joy of human love, in all it's forms.

My friends, I am putting before you, that the greatest 'present' available to us, is in fact the Presence, the divine Presence. This Presence has been there in our past, and will be in our future but the very exciting truth is that this Presence is present now. This moment, this day is imbued, infused with the divine. Yes it is true that this Presence is in the beautiful dawn, or sunset, or spectacularly in the new born, but another very exciting truth is that this Presence is alive and active in the very centre of your being. It is here at our core, where we are alone with God. It is here that he is uniquely present to us. The most important unwrapping, or unpacking, that we do, is gradually to grow into the beautiful person the Lord dreams us to be. I am happy to give the final word to St. Augustine,

'You have made us for yourself Lord, and our heart is restless, until it finds rest in you.'

MASS INTENTIONS

Claire Devitt Lily O'Reilly Philip Walsh
Recent Funerals:
 Marie Byrne Jennie Travers George Twamley

MASS TIMES

Weekends **Weekdays:**
Saturday: Vigil Mass 6.30 **Mon, Thur, Fri: 10.00**
Sunday: 09.00,10.30,12.00
Tuesday: No Prayer Service until September
No Mass on Wednesday evenings
during the month of July

FAITH MOMENT

We believe in the dignity of all human beings. This dignity rests on the fact that we not only seek God but that God, out of divine love, invites us to enter into a personal relationship with him.

SPECIAL VISITORS

We are delighted that Kilinney Gospel Choir will be singing at the 6.30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday July 6th here in St. Matthew's. We are looking forward very much to this occasion.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

LOVE REMEMBERED

THE MEANING AND BEAUTY OF THE MASS
BY PETER HANNON SJ
COLUMBA PRESS DUBLIN 2005 pp199

This is an excellent book if you want to explore the richness of the Mass. This book is equally suitable for people who are coming to this for the first time and also for those who want to re-visit the topic in a fresh way. It is very informative, well written but manages to remain accessible.

**Concert in Aid of Hospice Harold's Cross
 And a Donation to St. Matthew's**

In St. Matthew's Church
 Friday 22nd November @ 8.00pm: Tickets €15.
 For more information contact Ken @ 0862365288

Church Collections

26 June

1st Collection €940
 2nd Collection €655
 Family Offering €620

Parish Centre or Sacristy:
 Phone: 626 56 95
 Monday to Friday
 10.00am to 1.00pm

MALE (Ireland)

Men As Learners And Elders

The brainchild of Fr Richard Rohr, MALE has been gaining some momentum in this part of the world of late. You can check out our Irish website at <http://www.malejourney.ie>.

BARNARDOS NATIONAL COLLECTION DAY
FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2019
TEAM LEADERS/VOLUNTEERS

We need **you** on **Friday 13th September 2019** to help with organised bag packs and on-street collections in communities across the country. This is a fun opportunity to take part in a very worthy cause. Not only will you be giving back to the community, you will also get the opportunity to meet people, make new friends, and establish new networks. By generously volunteering your time you'll be helping change lives and create brighter futures for some of the most vulnerable children across Ireland.

From 24-28 July 2019, a significant gathering of men will converge in Kiltegan, Co Wicklow, for what has come to be known as the Men's Rites of Passage. "What on earth is that all about?" I hear you ask. The men's Rites of Passage (MROP) is a five-day, deeply soulful and experiential programme, devised mainly by the U.S. author, spiritual writer, preacher and Franciscan friar, Fr Richard Rohr, OFM, back in 2004, that builds on the classic patterns of male initiation through profound rituals and teachings. Each day includes major teachings from the Wisdom Traditions central to masculine spirituality, quiet time for reflection and opportunities to share stories and experiences with other men in the context of small groups.

How about you? If you are a man and would like to take a significant step along the journey to being a more authentic man, why not go to the website

<http://www.malejourney.ie>

where you can download the application form?
 You won't regret it.

GOSPEL READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon 08/07	Mt 9: 18-26	'Your Faith has restored you to health'
Tue 09/07	Mt 9: 32-37	'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few?'
Wed 10/07	Mt 10: 1-7	'Proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand.'
Thu 11/07	Mt 19: 27-29	St. Benedict, Abbot 'They will be repaid a hundred times over and inherit eternal life.'
Fri 12/07	Mt 10: 16-23	'The Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.'
Sat 13/07	Mt 10: 24-33	'There is no need to be afraid'