

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 17, 2019

“Something incomprehensible is not for that reason less real.” (Blaise Pascal 1588-1651)

As you may remember, two weeks ago, I introduced this series of sermons centering upon some of the questions and concerns being raised by our Catholic faithful. My purpose is to address some of these questions arising from a few select situations we have witnessed. I chose to accomplish this task through an examination of our Catholic foundational teachings. I began with a question as to the purpose of our existence. I attempted to focus that sermon upon the fundamental Catholic understanding that our existence was purposeful. It was not a result of a mere evolutionary factor. We were purposely created by a loving and joyful God. There are, however, some who would disagree with this core belief of our faith. For these individuals, God is the creation of man; not vice versa. We are now faced with a fact that there are some who no longer believe in God. This weekend, I will attempt to address this belief. For if one does not believe in God, then why would they ever freely choose to follow the commands and precepts He has laid out for us. In other words, why would we freely choose to follow a map if we believed its destination was not real.

Who is God? The great Catholic theologian Saint Thomas Aquinas is often quoted with these words: “To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.” Greater minds than mine have, throughout history, sought various ways to prove the existence of God. Their proofs were not developed through the testing of material objects. They were developed through a series of questions and answers. One of these is often referred to as the Principle of Cause and Effect. Put simply, for every effect, there must be a cause. If we trace our physical universe back as far as the human mind will allow, we are left with one question: “Where did the matter come from?” Everything has to come from something else. Nothing has the ability to create a thing. There are some who still do not agree with this line of thought. God is a spiritual being, and as Blaise Pascal said: *“Something incomprehensible is not for that reason less real.”*

As Catholics, we believe that God is The Supreme Being, The First Cause, Infinite Perfection, and so much more. Along with these, we believe He is the One whom our hearts truly desire. As Saint Augustine wrote in Book I of his *Confessions*: *“Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord.”* Man, created in God’s image and likeness, seeks Him who is worthy of our undying praise. It is during this lifelong journey of seeking God that we come to understand ourselves and how His commands have affected our lives. This is, I believe, why our Catholic faith can be so hard for some and frighten others. To state that I am a Believer means I will live my life in accordance with His Divine Will. I must be willing to forgive others who have deeply hurt me. I must be willing to love others even though I detest their actions. I must be willing to seek His Face through all of my actions. I must be willing to place my own Wants second to the Needs of my fellow man. I must be willing to suffer with Christ for the salvation of all mankind. To paraphrase Our Lady’s words to Saint Bernadette Soubirous: *“I do not promise you happiness in this world, only in the next.”*