

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2021
Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #4)

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

Last week, I encouraged all of us to take some time and consider the question: “Do I believe in God?” I will make an assumption that many, due to an already overloaded home or work schedule, were unable to find sufficient time to reflect upon this question. Nevertheless, allow me to propose one thing for you to consider concerning the existence of God - natural law.

Throughout human history, civilizations and societies have risen and they have fallen. Through our study of these past groups, we find that they each held sacred a certain law or sets of laws. If we were to summarize the various laws of these civilizations, could we not state them in these words: “Do Good, Avoid Evil.” What we are expressing is a very basic view of natural law. All civilizations have sought to do good things (promote harmony) and avoid evil things (succumb to chaos) for the sake of the people who formed these societies. Even if a person was a lone individual, I propose to you that they would try to follow these two ideas to the best of their ability. By examining human history and civilizations within different eras of this history, we can further make two observations concerning this natural law: it is both universal and unchanging. We can say that confidently because we all know that deep within all of us is a desire for happiness. To achieve the happiness we seek, we have established laws, guided by the natural law, which both govern our societies and seek to affirm, not impede, our desire for happiness. Now, we can see how both moral law and civil law would develop within civilization.

I know that this line of thought will not answer every question or argument others could place before us. I can only propose it and ask you to invest yourself into considering the possibility of natural law. For once we can accept the truth of this statement, then we can begin to understand truth itself.