

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 24, 2021
Year of the Eucharist and Parish (Sermon #3)

“The amount of time I spend with either a person or a thing determines just how much I value that person or thing.”

Do I believe in God? I purposefully begin our reflection with this question. For it seems to me that if I truly appreciated how much God has invested into humanity/me, then would I offer Him such a lackadaisical response? As I concluded last week asking this question, it occurred to me that providing you with a standard catechetical answer of God’s existence would actually hinder what I originally intended to accomplish in these reflections. I remind myself that the goal is to have us ponder and invest into our Catholic faith. It is my hope that this will arouse in us a desire to seek a satisfactory answer to our questions, thereby offering God a suitable return upon the investment of His Son. Therefore, today I ask you to think about what process you would go through to answer this question guided by the way you answer other questions in your life.

Have you ever reflected upon how you make a decision? I have been told that we make decisions through two processes: reason and emotion. Do we not read, study, and reflect upon serious decisions as opposed to less serious ones? We read various reviews and reports concerning an automobile we intend to purchase. We use our intellect (reason) to provide us with the most satisfactory answer. At the same time, we may not give much thought into what we will eat for breakfast. I eat oatmeal because I like (emotion) the taste of oatmeal. One of these two means encourages personal investment to find the answer, while the other does not.

Now returning to the question of God, have we really sought to answer this question or have we just accepted it without much thought. Please understand the way we answer this question will affect our lives on a more substantial level than what we either intend to drive or eat. To answer this question impels us to go beyond just accepting God because our parents raised us to believe in Him. It requires we make an investment to find an answer which best satisfies us.

My family, I wonder if we just accept God’s existence without much thought because to truly invest ourselves into finding an answer scares the Hades out of us. If we were to invest ourselves and find our answer to His existence, then could we continue to live the lives we are currently enjoying or had enjoyed before COVID-19? Would it not oblige us to amend our lives in accord with His desire for us to be happy with Him in Heaven? Or, am I content to just accept that God exists, go about living the life I want, and hope that in the end I would have done just enough to get by and get into Heaven? I leave it here for each of us to reflect upon.