

Holy Family Radio

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St. Peter Canisius

Dear Fellow Catholic,

What good is being Catholic anyway? We seem to be perpetually working for the Kingdom and not really making any headway. Pro-life Catholics have stood at clinics for decades. Concerned Catholics protest for various reasons the complex provisions of the proposed federal budget. Year after year it is the same old stuff. Where are the improvements in society that our work ought to bring? Where is the sense of satisfaction?

Saint Paul wrote in Colossians 1, "...in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ on behalf of his body, which is the church..." We know that the reason for creation is to show forth the glory of God. So because we are joined to Christ, our sufferings are joined with His and persevering to the end is a part of showing forth the glory of God. Ouch. Seems painfully like the "tough love" we wish weren't part of parenting.


Christmas can be a tough season for people caught up in ministry or mission. You have to slow down too much. The time of Advent preparation is supposed to help us focus, not on work, but on the person of Our Lord, His incarnation as an infant, His epiphany to shepherds, angels and us. For activists and missionaries, it can seem too slow or too passive. One is forced to recall, not only why we do what we do, but even why we exist. Like all creation we exist to serve God, to worship the God who became man to rescue us from sin and death. While we may be intense in our missionary works, we must not forget that our works exist for the glory of God, not for our emotional satisfaction. Our work seems, and is, endless.

Another risk is that we sometimes forget God and think of governing in terms of creating utopia on earth. We really must get over ourselves, transcend self-interest and our collective materialism, and live by principles in faith to serve Him. It is frustrating, no doubt, but perhaps our success is not the point. God does not coerce us to love Him or to do charity. He invites and attracts us to do good and avoid evil. Maybe this Christmas we can ponder how, without utopian ideas, we can encourage our community to be more Godly by creating incentives to charity and justice instead of relying on coercive, materialistic confiscation and redistribution.

More importantly, we hope you find time in the busy holiday season for worship, for pondering the Child who came to teach us, not for material salvation, but for the glory of God and our eternal salvation and to give His life for us. God grant us the time to be away from TV, toys and food and listen for the quiet voice. God help us quell our noisy lives and passionate missions and ministries and give us new insight into why we do what we do.

Finally, may the 12 days of Christmas be a blessing to you this year! May God reward you for all that you have done this year in support of Holy Family Radio! Your support has been an encouragement to us! Let us take on 2018 with a renewed spirit and renewed depth. God grant that we celebrate the successes of this work together in heaven!

Sincerely


for Holy Family Radio

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