

Promise To Do The Best

Well, if this one wasn't 'Divinely inspired' I don't know what is, glimpses of Him in His Creation dating to the earliest of the age of women and men.

The first mention of a rainbow was as a sign from the Creator that never again would He wreck chaos upon the earth. This is not about the truth of Noah's ark; it is about believing. God made His promise. Have we fulfilled ours? He made us stewards, created in His Image and Likeness, of this planet, and all you need to do is dip your toes in the news (rarely do I do this now) and I think you will find we, as a society, are not doing our best in many categories.

Many of the largest companies who manufacture stuff that pollute, or do the polluting themselves, have lost their moral compass. Instead, they worship their god, greed.

The classic scenario, which is the case since time is remembered in the human age, hasn't changed much. The wealthy get wealthier and us, other ninety-nine percent, many often live week to week. This is hard on us, and the misinformation about almost anything has divided us and proved our 'tunnel vision'. The great shining light on the hill, the USA, is dimming before our eyes. Yet not hopelessly so.

As Americans, if we put ourselves to the task, there is not much we can't accomplish. So, hope do I have for us, here in 'the states.' We, the people, can fuel the flame and make that light brighter and brighter.

As I sat outside in the very private backyard at our duplex, just as we entered the 'misty season' here in the Great Pacific Northwest, I was surprised by His sign reaching from one end of the sky to another.

No, I did not go searching for the pot of gold left by my ancestors, the Leprechauns. Instead, I sat in peaceful comfort, contemplating the great glory and awesomeness of our God, His gentle mist washing over me like a new Baptism. Yes, He is to be feared because of His omnipotence and omnipresence but a 'fear of God' is incredibly indescribable. Fear of God is much more akin to awe, than the little fears we have, whether it be to get enough to eat, or have enough money to buy your prescriptions, or the general chaos that surrounds us. Then the all-consuming fear of 'Am going to make it?'

This is where giving everything over to Him is a discipline. You must remind yourselves every single day, when those 'earthly' fears snarl your mind and infect your soul, that you must yell...

Stop!

You can take care of me Lord and you can take over my problems.

Not that there won't be more 'issues' but that is where the discipline comes in.

We must 'turn things over to God.' If we do this, we stand a much better job of 'doing our best'.

My Godfather, a diocesan priest out here in Yakima before he made the Great Leap, once told me in our thousands of hours of theological discussions over decades, some amplified by a sip or two of Irish whiskey (no more than two!), that 'you do your best and the heck with the rest.' Fr. Bob's comments on sin? "Sin is when you hurt someone else." And there are innumerable ways to hurt someone.

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This might sound a bit harsh, but it is the truth. You do your best with the things you can, with His Divine Grace. The things you cannot control? The heck with them.

Even if you've not become disciplined to always do your best, there are very few of us who do. Even St. Francis of Assisi when asked, "Who is the world's greatest sinner? Answered, "I am." You can get up when you fail and try again and again and again. And pull somebody else up with you while you are at it.

Practice makes perfect.

I've found two rules that keep me on the path of doing my best.

1. I love Him with everything I have
2. I love every other single human being created in His Image and likeness. Help those who can't pull themselves up out of their own fear.

After all, these were the final two commands He left us before doing His best and the will of His Father.

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I couldn't get back far enough to get a picture of the whole thing, so I captured what I could.

