



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! American author, John Steinbeck wrote that **“the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.”** Albanian-born Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta wrote that **“if you want to make God laugh**

tell Him your plans.” As we enter this 3rd week of Advent – Gaudete/Rejoice Sunday -- I propose both quotes for our consideration.

As members of the human family, all can relate to the first quote. Even as God’s family, we can relate. For indeed best laid plans often do go awry. A recent case and point is the Beatification of Archbishop Sheen. Two weeks ago in this very column, I reported the scheduled beatification which was set for December 21st. Well, shortly thereafter, much to my surprise and chagrin, I learned of the event’s postponement. (For more information about it, I encourage you to read the Catholic News Agency 12/4 article by JD Flynn.) It seems as though the Church made a prudential judgement to hold off on the beatification in light of a New York Attorney General report due out that same week.

The question I raise is this. In light of awry plans, what happens to us? I suppose many things... disappointment, hurt, frustration, and anger to name just a few. Then, often enough those feelings are followed by decisions we make out of those hurts. And such decisions very often are sinful acts. They may be cloaked in self-justification but they are sins, nonetheless. What’s more, we can become quite skilled, comfortable and righteous in sin. But such behavior is never right. In fact, it’s deadly.

So, what ought we to do when plans go awry? This is an important question to ask for unless we consider it and provide a direct answer, we run the risk of being robbed in life, becoming puppets controlled by the environment in which we live. How sad that is.

This brings us to St. Mother Teresa’s quote. When our plans go awry, we ought to first go to the Lord and tell Him. Without covering over in any way, we can tell Him the awryness, hurt, anger, frustration and everything else. Then, we see what He does. While He never laughs at us, He always re-establishes us in Peace. He always provides a fuller vision. Looking awryness and hurt in the face, He always brings His healing ray. And at times, that healing is revealed in God’s smile. There’s a famous story of Teresa of Avila who had a really bad day. And before going to twitter, to gossip or anything else, she went to the Lord. She told Him all about it and He said the following “Teresa, all looks well to me.” And that Word brought healing.

My friends where sin abounds grace abounds all the more. In light of so much sin and awryness around and within us, how important to seek grace. To go quickly to the Lord. This week, we can do so. I encourage **ALL** to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Bring everything to the Lord, Tell Him all. And receive His grace, his mercy, his love and even His smile. On this Gaudete Sunday, let us seek that smile of the Lord.

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Peace,

Fr. Rogers

