



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! As we arrive at the mid-point of July, we celebrate several beautiful saints this week. One of them being the Bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Bonaventure. His name means “good fortune” or “good journey” and he is known quite well for his scholarly work The Soul’s Journey to God. That’s the journey we are all on, it’s the journey of our lifetime and we are familiar with all its twists and turns, mystery and miseries. At times the journey to God can be taxing and difficult, it involves the Cross and learning how to carry that cross in and with the Lord is the secret of that journey.

St. Bonaventure provides a framework for the journey which resonates with the days of creation. In re-creating the world, God follows a similar order, pattern and way of redeeming us: speaking his Word, willing our redemption, moving our minds and wills, leading us to rest and understanding, all in and through Jesus.

The fact is that grace builds on nature. And redemption involves God’s grace healing, restoring, re-orienting, strengthening and building up our nature. The collapse of the building in Surfside, Florida and so many things in our society reminds us of the need to build well. And it would do us well to consider how he builds. For that consideration, I close with some thoughts on Virtue.

The Catechism, paragraph #1803-04, teaches:

Virtue is a habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers, he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions. Human Virtues are the firm attitudes, stable dispositions, habitual perfections of intellect and will that govern our actions, order our passions and guide our conduct according to reason and faith. They make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life. The virtuous man is he who freely practices the good.

This week, on our journey to God, do not settle for society’s values which lie on the surface have no power to save. Rather embrace the building and transforming power of virtue. They go down deep and their transforming power has power to save.

May God be the Master Builder work within us.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers