

"SOME GOODNESS AND GRACE ... IN AN ORDINARY PLACE!!"  
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Dear Friends,

I've been thinking a lot lately about ----- CHOICES. Everyday ... every time we meet a crossroads ... we have to make choices. Of course, there are the "big ones" ----- career, college or trade school, a job offer, whether or not to move ... these can be life-changing. There are many choices, mixed with temptations ----- do I go the party where I know there will be under-age drinking? ... do I stay out later than I should? It's all part of life.

Tonight confirmation begins for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. I've learned a lot over the years about what this means ... and, I must admit, I sometimes struggle with the importance or lack-thereof of the confirmation experience. Craig and I make it pretty easy: we meet twice a month ... no homework ... the classes are relaxed, to say the least. The problem is ----- "Monday nite confirmation" (not as much fun as "Friday nite lights") usually is in conflict with something else these kids are doing ... so, a "choice" needs to be made:

*\*confirmation class or soccer practice? \*confirmation class or a fall baseball game?*

*\*confirmation class or catching up on my homework, or studying for the test I'm not prepared for?*

*\*confirmation class or my dance lesson? \*confirmation class or my only chance to see a Bulls game?*

It's Monday afternoon in the "humble temple" ... and suddenly the phone starts ringing ... and know what it is -----

"Pastor Don ... I can't come to class tonight ...because \_\_\_\_\_ ..."

90% of the time ... the choice is pretty clear. If you have a game or a concert or a recital ... if you are part of a team ... if you've made a commitment to something that's important to you ----- THEN DO IT!@!!

I never want "confirmation" to be a conflict ... I never want it to be something that gets in the way of doing something that's at the heart-and-soul of who you are. Yesterday in church ... one of the kids tells me ---- "Pastor Don, I have a concert tomorrow ... can't be at the confirmation meeting."

My reply ----- "Then you have homework." *"What's my homework???"*

**"When you sing ... give it your best ... sing from your soul!!"**

When I see kids rush into class ... with their uniforms half-on and french-fries hanging-out of their mouths ... I'm reminded: sometimes our kids are pulled in too many directions.

The church ... confirmation class ... whatever it is that we do around there ----- it can't be just one more thing in a list of things we "have to do." Confirmation ----- it's a *perspective*.

**CONFIRMATION** ... it's about "confirming" your faith ... it's about "affirming" who you are ----- in the choices you have to make everyday. I often resented the church when I was younger ... because I was forced to make a choice between being at class and being with my "team." It's not always a choice between what's most important and what isn't as important ... it's really about making healthy decisions about *what you need to do at THAT MOMENT*.

Confirmation is about your "heart."

When I see the number of high school kids in church on Sunday. When I see a boy scout receiving the highest award ... and he talks about how important his church is in his accomplishment. When I see young adults who grew up here bring their friends to church, because of the pride they have in this "humble temple" ....

then I'm reminded that "confirmation" is more than a Monday night ... it's really about ordinary Tuesdays and Wednesdays ... where you can feel free and thankful for the person God wants you to be.

I need to stop now. It's Monday ... the phone is ringing ... she probably has a conflict tonight.

I've learned ... it's not a conflict ... it's just an opportunity *to be the very best she can be!!*

***Joy and Love to all ----- "rev"***

## A FEW REMINDERS AND HAPPENINGS

*\*\*If you'd like to make a last-minute rsvp for the BURGEO this Saturday ... please call the church ... LAST CALL!!*

### **A FEW OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES**

**\*\*WE HAVE TWO WISH-LISTS**

*\*\*One for a school in Blue Island ---- catering to 80% low-income families ... and the teachers are in the position of buying many of their own supplies. We hope to have a nice collection of things within the next two weeks.*

*\*\*One for the Ronald McDonald House in Oak Lawn. Our youth group is providing lunch on October 31 ... and there are several items they need for families who spend many days-and-nights there.*

**BOTH THESE LISTS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE CHURCH.**

### **OUR NEXT MEN'S CLUB OUTREACH BINGO IS FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29 ... doors open at 6:30.**

We are dedicating this night to the veterans at the ILLINOIS VETERAN'S HOME IN MANTENO. We are visiting them in November ... and we like to bring "lots of money" to share as prizes!! By the way ----- if you wear a costume to bingo on the 29<sup>th</sup> ... there will be some awards for the best ones.

### **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY IS COMING UP ... NOVEMBER 7.**

This year we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> year as a congregation. We have a fun pot-luck that evening. We'll start having sign-ups soon. In January ... we are having a celebration dinner on SUNDAY JANUARY 30 at Silver Lake Country Club.

(This is the week between the play-offs and the super bowl ... in case you are worried about that.) We have a lot to celebrate and much to be thankful for.

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ---- SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, NOON**

Our finance committee has been meeting regularly ... and one of the issues has been ----- can we do something to expedite the paying-off of our mortgage?? ... and we are making progress. Anyway ---- we have a proposal to restructure our mortgage with Marquette Bank ... and over the next couple years it can save us a substantial amount of money.

This does require (1) church council approval and then (2) approval of the congregation.

We'll meet on the 14<sup>th</sup> ... after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

**Most of you probably know ... our church has a nice web-site ---- [www.allsaintsjoy.com](http://www.allsaintsjoy.com)**

It includes the calendar ... bulletins ... previous newsletters ... a prayer list ... sermons ..

We hope you enjoy it.

**We have some nice things coming up.**

If you have questions about anything in the calendar ... call the church office anytime.

Blessings to all!!