

**A LITTLE BIT OF GOODNESS ... ON AN ORDINARY DAY**  
**All Saints Lutheran Church "Oasis of Joy" USA**  
**13350 LaGrange Road Orland Park, IL 60462**  
**Don Borling, Pastor 708-448-2939**

**Mid-June ... 2011**

**Dear Friends ...**

I was just holding "the twins" ... 4 months old ... you kind-of wonder what they see and hear ... why they suddenly cry ... then laugh ... the sounds and colors, which to them are everyday miracles and moments. In a way ... I do the same thing. For sure ---- the sounds I hear and visions I see ... they are colored by years of living and learning and being cynical about the world.

But ... I enjoy looking. Peoples' faces ... their work ... the way they walk and talk ...  
All the folks we rely on ... to get through our day.  
"The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker ..."

I park my pick-up on Tuesday .... Q's last day of school.  
Lots of "thank-you's" are in order. The crossing-guards ... who have graced the same corner for years.  
The bus-driver ... who even brings cookies for our dog.  
The school secretary ... the custodian ... of course, his teacher ... oh, there are the aids and social worker ...  
the lunch ladies ... all God's children, doing God's work.

I get discouraged ... as I'm sure you do, at times.  
Mob - violence against innocent by-standers ... young people with a whole life ahead of them, in a moment of time their life is over. People with power and position ... and they betray the very people who are supposed to trust them. Hard-working people ... their homes and businesses gone, when the fury of mother nature passes through. Yet somehow ... the strength of the human spirit brings them together ... and we know in our hearts:  
**THEY WILL COME BACK!@!!**

All we have in life ... are the moments coming our way.  
What we do with them ... how we face them ... what we learn from them ---- it's up to us.  
I certainly can't speak for you ... but I know from my own experience ----- *when all I focus on is "what's in it for me" ... when my own agenda and time-line become the focus of what I do ... when my eye is always on the clock, on where I need to be next, on whether or not this is "convenient for me" ... THEN I LOSE THE MAGIC. I LOSE THE MOMENT. I LOSE THE SENSE OF WONDER LIFE HAS TO OFFER.*

As I write this humble letter (I think of how many of these I've written in 37 years ... some of you are probably saying: "hey, rev ... you pretty much say the same thing every time" ... oh, well) ... anyway, as I write this ... our son Quinton is in the front parking lot ... sitting in a cardboard box ... pretending he's flying an airplane. He turns the ordinary into an extraordinary ride.

This is exactly what I want to do ... with whatever time I have left on this planet.  
Live in the ordinary ... see a God who is extraordinary ... turn cardboard into wings ... see crossing-guards with angel wings ... find miracles in moments, and moments in miracles ...  
and just be *PLAIN GRATEFUL* for what I have.  
"we're in this together" ... always have been, always will be.

luv and peace ... "rev"

**PRAYERS AND MORE PRAYERS**

*\*Frankie Frech's cancer has come back ... her faith and positive attitude always is back ... she is having some tests. \*14 months since Jude began her walk with cancer ... your prayers mean the world to us. \*Connor Ruisz is getting lots of chemo. There is a benefit and fund for Connor ... "Cure 4 Connor" ... information available at the church. \*Greg Cargill's mom – Dorothy – died last week. Wonderful woman, wonderful family. \*Jackie Chmieleski's sister Patti and cousin Val --- both battling cancer. \*Wayne Dierick's good friend – George Sims – recovering from a serious fracture. \*Linda Buikema's mom --- Barb Edwardson --- diagnosed with cancer. It's early, stage one ... so, lots of optimism. \*Bill Bittner is home from the hospital ... his wife Cathleen is living with cancer, and doing well ... \*Pat Martyn has been going through chemo for the past several months ... just finished her last treatment. \*Patrick Kennedy, friend of Jon & Anita Brennan ---- Lutheran General Hospital. \*Kathy Pagoria's cousin – Cindy Pike – recovering from breast cancer surgery. \*Sandra Harneck is back home. \*Jean Simon is going through re-hab.*

**FUN-FESTS WITH ST. COLETTA'S BEGIN TUESDAY, JUNE 21.** *These are weekly picnics for our developmentally disabled friends ---- usually hosting about 65 clients and counselors. We provide the burgers and drinks ... you are welcome to bring a side-dish. Most important --- just come and enjoy their company ... play a few games. We begin at 5:30 ... eat about 6:30 ... we finish by 7:30.*

**OUR ANNUAL "CELEBRATE AMERICA" SERVICE IS SUNDAY, JULY 3.** *We have one service that Sunday --- 9:30. Our local VFW posts the colors and joins us for a reception afterwards.*

**THE STEAK FRY IS SATURDAY, JULY 9, 6:30**

*It's a great adult evening ----- great food and drink. And ... it's a spiritual night, too. Just before we eat ... we have a candlelight tribute ----- honoring those who are living with cancer ... and remembering those who have died from cancer. Tickets are \$20 ... we have a cash bar ... we eat "under the big top" --- just outside Charter Hall. Tickets will be on sale ---- beginning this Sunday. \*\*\*\*\*Please don't wait 'til last minute ... we have lots of "preparing" to do!@! ---- thanks.*

**A FEW NUTS-AND-BOLTS THINGS AROUND THE HUMBLE TEMPLE**

*\*We just had some major work done on the HEATING AND AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS that heat and cool our gymnasium and classrooms. The heat-exchangers needed to be replaced. A big thank-you to Ed O'Malley, for overseeing the work ... and his volunteer crew of Mike Czubernat, Jim Gedmin, & Ron Ruckheim.*

*\*It looks like we are in for some major roof work on our gym. Lots of leaks and weak spots ... especially noticeable during these heavy rains. Pete Schipma is working with us to determine exactly what we need to do ... and, as I write this ... Ed Steele and Tom Tomas are cleaning up some of the damage done in one of our storage rooms. It's amazing what it takes to keep a building like ours ---- neat, clean, & functional. Everyday I give thanks for this place ... and all the goodness it represents ... and all of you who make it possible.*

**YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AS ALWAYS, MAKES A DIFFERENCE ... AND ENABLES US TO DO "WHAT WE NEED TO DO" ----- to keep our "humble temple" open and vibrant.**

*Please try to be consistent with your support ... even if you are gone a lot during the summer. Some of you have asked for information regarding "automatic payment" through your bank. Our comptroller – Kathy Klang – has put together an information sheet about this ... it's available here at the church.*

**WE HAD A WONDERFUL YEAR IN SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

*We need a couple more folks to join our loving team of teachers. If you are interested, please give our superintendent – Kathy Ruiter – a call ..... 708-218-1127.*

**TO ALL OF YOU ... A BLESSED AND JOYOUS SUMMER ...  
KEEP PRAYING ... AND KEEP HOPING!@!!**

