

May 19, 2019

**From Fr. Jim . . .**



**Life in Abundance:** Comedian George Carlin had a comedy routine about “Stuff.” It is about all the things and possessions that we collect and hold onto so dearly. Here are some things he said about “stuff”: “The whole meaning of life is trying to find a place for our stuff. That’s what your house is – a place to put all of your stuff. Your house is just really a pile of stuff with a cover on it. It is a place to keep all of your stuff while you go out and get more stuff. You then have to buy a bigger house because you have run out of room for all your stuff, and you have to have more space for more stuff.” I wonder if we keep collecting stuff because we feel it is a way to have life and have it in abundance. There is danger in this kind of thinking because the stuff that we collect doesn’t last. It is temporary. It breaks and wears out. The life that things give us then is only temporary. We can’t buy happiness and we can easily become possessed by our possessions.

Only God can give us life in abundance or fill us completely with life. Needless to say this is not about the acquisition of more stuff, possessions things, money, or gadgets. It is about receiving and sharing God’s unconditional love and living with the virtues of the Holy Spirit and building relationships on these eternal qualities. It is about living in deep relationship with the risen Lord and choosing to live with God’s grace, holiness, life and love. Jesus suffered, died and rose for all of us. Thus, he came so that we may have his life and have it in abundance. His love is everlasting and his mercy endures forever. “The risen Lord is our Shepherd; there is nothing more that we shall want. Only goodness and kindness will follow us all the days of our lives.” How good it is and how life-giving it is to be part of the flock of the risen Good Shepherd and to be alive with his new commandment of love!

**The Flock continues to grow:** Welcome and congratulations to the three infants who were baptized two Sundays ago and six more who were baptized last week and three more who will be baptized next week. We pray for the parents and godparents so that they can be examples of faith to inspire them. We pray that the grace of baptism can be renewed in each one of us. May we all learn to practice and live the life of resurrection as abundantly and generously as we receive it.