

CLANCY'S CLICHES

Summertime-summertime-sum- sum- summertime!

Recent articles mentioned my friends like Toto (aka Terry), Oz, and Frankie. Did you know a star is named after another one of my canine cronies? The "dog-star" is called Sirius (not the one on the radio) and is the brightest star in the night sky in July and August. The Greeks thought Sirius was responsible for the hot summer days and, wahlah, "the dog days of summer" was created! Ahhhh... my favorite time of year!

Someone saw me in a certain position while I was being a speed bump in the rectory hallway. They thought I was deep in thought while, in fact, I was praying. I'm so misunderstood at times.

The experts say if you cross your arms, tilt your head one way or another, hold your hands with palms up vs. down, they all mean something specific. But how can you really tell by a position or gesture what "mode" another person is in or what they are doing or thinking? Maybe they have a toothache and the numbing stuff is making them frown. Or a contact is hurting their eye, making them glare at you with that Clint Eastwood squint. Ya just never know! The lesson I learned is: try not to be too quick to judge a smirk, a grimace, a gesture, a stance, or the way they're holding their paws. Try to understand and accept whatever mode they're in. Just experience and respect the heart and soul of the person.

Here are a few descriptions of my own "modes":

- *Saying Grace-one leg extended; one bent
- *Full Tummy-belly & all paws in air
- *Exercising-front paws flat on floor, hind legs straight up (Downward Dog yoga position is named after this)
- *Praying-paws together
- *Smiling-mouth open (or waiting for treats!) *see above*
- *Dancing-paws over my head
- *Thanking God-neck extended with schnoz pointed toward heaven
- *Imitation of Humphrey Bogart Here's Lookin' at You, Kid!-my one-eyed look.



Now the jokes:

1. What's red, white and blue? A flag, or sad candy canes!
2. Did you hear the one about the Liberty Bell? Yeah, it cracked me up!
3. What do you call an American drawing? A Yankee Doodle!
4. What dance was very popular in 1776? Independen - dance!
5. What did the colonists wear to the Boston Tea Party? Tea - shirts!
6. What did one flag say to the other flag? Nothing, it just waved!

Howlin' is hootin'; Growlin's not gooten!



-Clancy