



# LAUGHTER IS GOOD

Me: "I wanna travel!"

My bank account: "Like...to the backyard, you mean?"

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I don't believe in reincarnation...I didn't believe in it the last time, either.

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A young boy was looking through some old family photos and asked his mother,  
"Who is the guy on the beach with you with all the muscles and curly hair?"

"That's your father."

"Then who's that man who lives with us now?"

## NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Saint Mary Catholic Church/School is in need of a custodial support after Saturday events.  
For details on this position, please contact Darlene Smith at 937-840-9932.

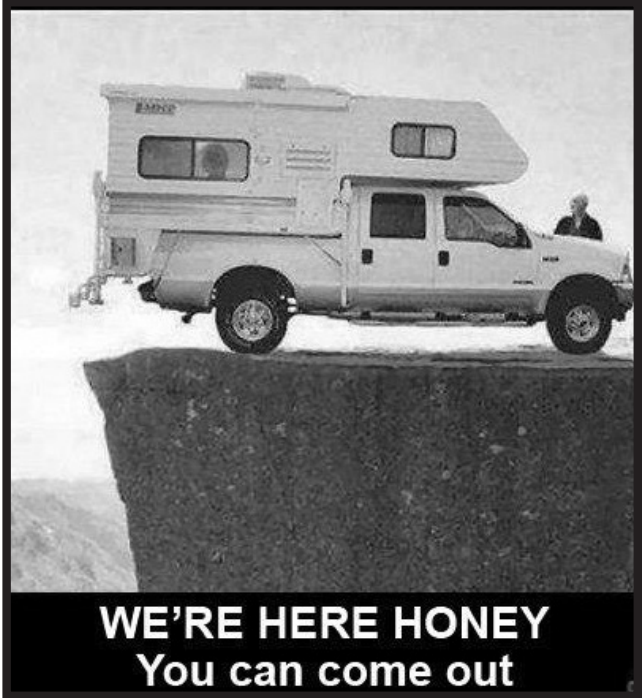
**"The wizard of Oz says look  
inside yourself and find self.**

**God says look inside yourself  
and find the *Holy Spirit*.**

**The first will get you to  
Kansas. The latter will get you  
to heaven. Take your pick."**

**- Max Lucado**





## SERMON FOR PENTECOST

One of my favorite shows on TV is “Super Girl.” I know what you’re thinking. I do not watch it because Super Girl, played by 28 year old Melissa Bennoist looks really great in spandex. (Well, maybe a little.) I watch it because sometimes the writers of that show will throw out these spiritual gems about happiness and the meaning of life. On one episode, Ms. Cat Grant, the powerful media mogul of Catco Media (think the female version of Donald Trump), tells Super Girl how to find true happiness. Ms. Grant took a leave of absence to go to a small Himalayan village in the remote mountains of Tibet. She said, “There I found happiness.” She described how the villagers celebrated the small things in life we take for granted. “When a baby takes its first steps or a boy kisses his girlfriend on the first date, all villagers gather together to celebrate with a daylong party.” Ms. Grant then shared her insight into happiness she learned from these people. “Do you know what makes true happiness? It is human connection. Real happiness comes not from what you do, or how much you own, or the power you possess but from the people who surround you with love.”

Everything God does is about making a human connection. That is why Jesus was born a human, why He lived with humans, why He suffered for humans, why He died for humans, why He rose again for humans, and why He ascended to Heaven to open the gates so humans can live with Him forever. Jesus does not want to be separated from humans even for a moment. That is why 50 days after Jesus arose (Pentecost means 50), He sent the Holy Spirit, so Jesus can live right inside of you. Once you get baptized, the Holy Spirit makes Jesus live in your soul. At Mass, when you receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, we call it “Holy Communion” because the Holy Spirit empowers the Glorified Body of Jesus to physically unite with your soul.

But the most powerful way the Holy Spirit makes Jesus stay connected to humans is when humans stay connected to each other in love. That is why Jesus said over and over again, “I command you love one another as I have loved you! (John 15:17). Jesus uses the word “love” 131 times in the Bible and four of those times He “commands” that you must love one another. Do ya think maybe it is important to Him that you do this because this is how He can stay connected with you? Jesus says in Matthew 18:20, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst.” To gather in the name of Jesus means to gather in love.

I urge you – make loving connection the priority of your life. This is where you will find your greatest happiness. Parents and kids, stay connected with each other in love. Families, be connected as one in love. Connect with others who have no one to love them. If you want a happiness that will never end, be sure to stay connected to Jesus. I feel most connected to Jesus when I connect with you my church family at the weekend Mass. This connection sustains me through the week till we meet again.

What grieves Jesus the most is a “disconnect” from the humans He loves. That’s what your sin does, it disconnects. The primary function of the Holy Spirit is to keep you connected to Jesus and to each other. The Holy Spirit does this by forgiveness.

Many years ago, I had a disconnect, a falling out with my brother over something I can’t even remember now. It robbed me of happiness. It took away my peace. We made up on Christmas Eve. He came to my home in Batavia, where he handed me a big box. Inside was a brand new Christmas tree. We put it up together. We decorated it together. We sat in front of that tree and drank together. He turned to me and offered a toast. “May we always be together and never apart.” Our reconnect renewed my happiness and returned my peace. Making up feels so good. Happy Pentecost!

