

NEWS AROUND THE PARISH

Congratulations to Howard Hawk, Riley's grandpa. He won the Michael Waltrip Racing Package. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets. (Riley is the little boy who sings so convincingly at the 10:00 a.m. Mass.)

	July 13	Kieran Conlon, Jim Lehn
	July 14	Virgil Downing, Patricia Rumpke
	July 15	Frank Gaston, Marissa Humphries
	July 18	Alberta Burke, Mary Hempel
	July 19	Cookie Boler, Ann Ernst

THINGS PEOPLE ACTUALLY SAID IN COURT

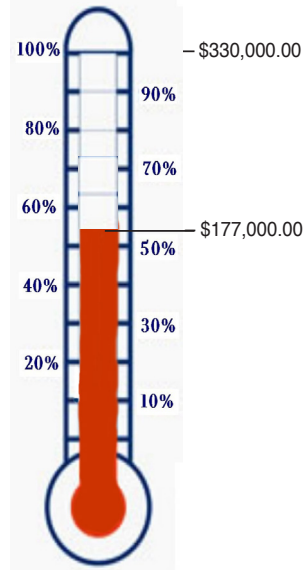
- Q: She had three children, right?
 A: Yes.
 Q: How many were boys?
 A: None.
 Q: Were there any girls?

 Q: Can you describe the individual?
 A: He was about medium height and had a beard.
 Q: Was this a male, or a female?

 Q: All your responses must be oral, OK?
 What school did you go to?
 A: Oral.

 Q: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?
 A: The autopsy started around 8:30 p.m.
 Q: And Mr. Dennington was dead at the time?
 A: No, he was sitting on the table wondering why I was doing an autopsy on him.

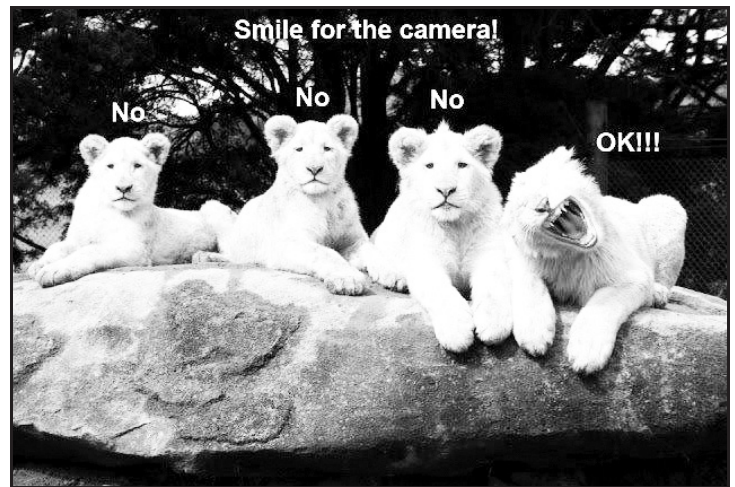
 Q: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?
 A: No.
 Q: Did you check for blood pressure?
 A: No.
 Q: Did you check for breathing?
 A: No.
 Q: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?
 A: No.
 Q: How can you be so sure, Doctor?
 A: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.
 Q: But could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?
 A: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practicing law somewhere.



CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN...

ONE FAITH, ONE HOPE, ONE LOVE

St. Mary Church Parishioners have now pledged \$177,000.00 dollars, which is 54% of reaching our \$330,000.00 goal. With your help we will make it.





AFTER I SPEND MY FIRST 12 YEARS SUCKING THE LIFE AND MONEY OUT OF MY PARENTS

I'LL COMPLAIN ABOUT HOW BAD THEY RAISED ME!



REALLY? I HAVE SOMETHING ON MY FACE?

WHERE?!



I HATE IT WHEN NEW PARENTS ASK WHO THE BABY LOOKS LIKE WHEN IT'S FIRST BORN. IT'S 5 MINUTES OLD, IT LOOKS LIKE A POTATO.

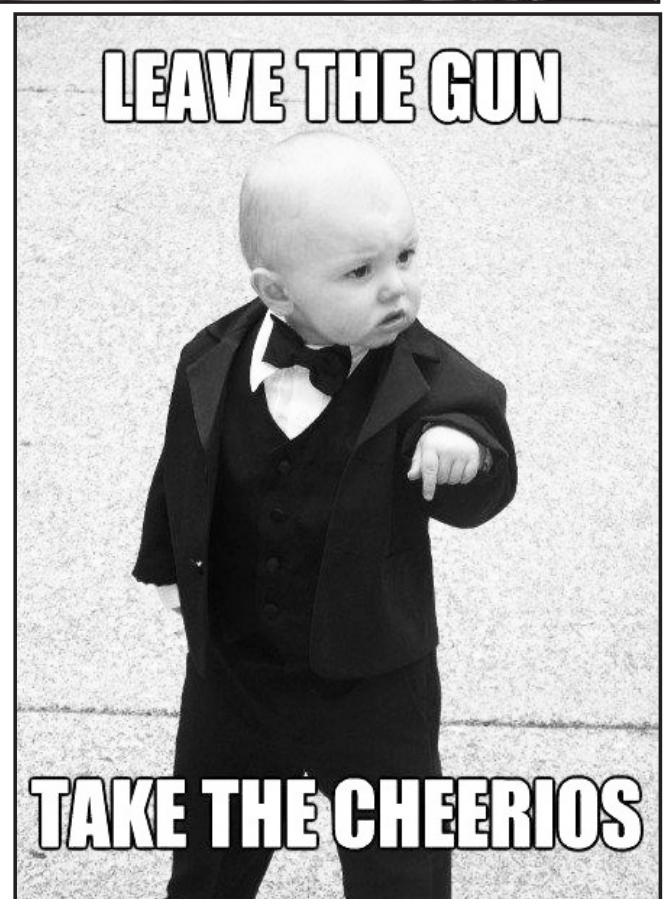


**DAY 30
I GAINED THEIR TRUST...**

BY POOPING EVERYWHERE



Are we there yet?



LEAVE THE GUN

TAKE THE CHEERIOS

FR. MIKE'S SERMON FOR FIFTEENTH SUNDAY

Amos was a humble man from a humble family. He had no formal education. He never went to prophet school. He would not be considered important. He did the menial work of growing fig trees and herding sheep. Yet God called him in a vision. God chose Amos to speak for Him. God wanted Amos to challenge a Jewish nation that was rich, fat, lazy, corrupt, greedy and prideful. People made a great show of their religion but didn't live it. What really angered God was in the midst of all this wealth many poor were starving and dying in the street.

Amos was a commoner. He never did this prophet gig before. He wasn't trained like the prophets of the royal court in Bethel. He knew the only way to get people to listen to him was that he had to say shocking things. If he were on radio today, he would be called a "shock jock." He would stand at a street corner and yell out to anyone who would listen, sort of like the preachers on a Saturday morning who yell into microphones on the Court House lawn. But Amos didn't have a mike. He yelled at the top of his voice.

Amos was way out of his league. He must have felt such anguish every time he preached. He knew he could get jailed or killed for what he said. Amos didn't care. He followed God. He did God's Will.

God called Amos out of his "comfort zone." We all have a comfort zone. It's the place where we feel secure, comfortable and in control. No big challenges, no big changes, everything is familiar and just the way I like it. Before I came to St. Mary ten years ago, the Bishop made it sound like this would be an easy assignment in a little country Church where I could semi-retire. I had visions of napping after the rigorous work of opening the mail. I looked forward to filling my social calendar with party invitations. My vision of fun and frolic lasted about a day.

Immediately, problems hit me from all sides. I had never been a pastor before. I knew little about finances or buildings or organizing large groups of very different people. I felt so inadequate, so untrained, so unprepared for the future. I literally had to learn on the job. But I knew God. I believed that if He called me to this, He would give me what I needed. With God's help I met those challenges with a lot of help from many gifted parishioners. Visions of fun and frolic returned. My comfort zone would now return. That lasted for... a day. God then gave me a second parish, St. Benignus, after the unexpected death of beloved pastor, Fr. Frank. Another grieving parish. More financial problems to figure out. I even inherited a Spanish Community and I don't speak Spanish!

Life is a series of challenges. God won't allow you to stay in your comfort zone too long lest you become complacent. I believe God gives us tests so we can learn to grow in faith. God puts us in situations where He tests our ability to love. Your life is a journey to God. Take nothing for your journey other than the walking stick of faith that will support you and the sandals of love that will hasten your journey to God. You can find comfort and peace in every situation life and God throw at you. The challenge is to believe this, even when everything in life tells you not to.