



Deacon Deliberations by Deacon Gary Kupsak

“You Need Not Be Afraid”

I was reflecting the other day on how our family has been going through a rather rough period of grand-kids trying to fit into new schools, debilitating physical and emotional problems for the entire family and generally feeling sorry for myself. I know that those words don't seem to be filled with the hope and optimism that God wants us to deal with the trials and tribulations that may come our way. I realize that I'm not being a very good example of complying with "God's will," if I bellyache (well maybe it's not bellyaching) but maybe feeling too sorry for myself, but sometimes I feel like Job, and just ready myself for the next shoe to fall. My wife interrupted my self-pity by telling me that one of our friends from the old neighborhood, who moved to Naples, Florida almost 25 years ago had suffered only moderate damage as a result of Hurricane Irma. I then began to think about all the people around me who were suffering or had suffered, I thought about some of the beautiful men and women who I had the good fortune to minister with here at the parish, who had recently been called home by God. I thought of Father Ron, who invited me to become a Deacon, and how he would be missed. I thought of all my friends at the parish who have asked to be prayerfully remembered due to dealing with catastrophic illnesses. Even though the travails sometimes "pile up," is it possible for us to remember how blessed we are, and how God is always there for us, no matter how difficult it may be for us to see His presence in our lives.

I found a verse to remind myself that I'm never alone in life's trials. It's by an "Unknown Author," and I thought you may too find some solace in the thoughts presented:

Dear Child,

I heard you cry last night. I was there in the darkness when the tears slipped down your face and your heart broke within you. Did you think I didn't see and didn't care? Do you really think I don't know how tired and weary you really are?

Child, I've been with you when life has dealt its bitterest blows. I've watched you handle all the sorrow and all the pain. But you are weary now and I can see the broken spirit and the faded hopes and dreams.

Please don't forget that I care. My touch and caress can restore and mend your broken heart and kindle the flame of hope once more within you. Let me love you. Take down the barriers around your heart and lean on me.

You are not alone, and you never have been, I am your friend and will never, ever leave your side. Trust Me!

*Your Friend,
Jesus*

The most often used command in the Bible is “Do not be afraid.” We are never alone, nor need we be afraid if in fact, Jesus is our friend. **May God keep you in his warm embrace.**