



Fisch-ing Lines

by Deacon Howard Fischer

A few years ago, I stumbled across the following bits of wisdom from Erma Bombeck. Perhaps you've read this before, but regardless I hope you find Erma's words as insightful and thought-provoking as I did. Erma, always a source of wisdom and humor, wrote these thoughts near the end of her life after she became seriously ill with a genetic kidney disease. (Erma died in 1996. She converted to Catholicism in 1949 while in college and remained active in the Church.) This work is entitled "If I Had My Life to Live Over."

I would have talked less and listened more.

I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.

I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.

I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.

I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.

I would have sat on the lawn with my children and never worried about grass stains.

I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.

I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.

I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.

I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.

When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, "Later. Now go get washed up for dinner." There would have been more "I love you's." More "I'm sorry's."

But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute...look at it and really see it...live it and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff.

Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who DO love us. Let's think about what God HAS blessed us with. And what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally, as well as spiritually. Life is too short to let it pass you by. We only have one shot at this and then it's gone.

I hope you all have a blessed day.

If you wish to contact me, please leave a note in the Parish Office or send an email to deaconhwhf99@yahoo.com.