

Final Sunday Homily as Pastor of Immaculate Conception: July 10, 2022

Joke: The story is told... (taxi driver & priest in heaven) "When you preached, people slept; when he drove his taxi, people prayed!"

Not only have you most likely heard me tell that joke before, but you've also most likely heard all that I'm going to say in today's homily... If you're still awake! In today's first Scripture reading from Deuteronomy, we heard Moses tell the people to heed the voice of the Lord & keep his commandments; and in today's Gospel Jesus tells us the way to eternal life is the way of love, love of God & love of neighbor. We've all heard these commandments & statutes so often, that they may tend to go in one ear & out the other.... at least they often do for me. And so today I want to share with you some quotes & aphorisms that for me put flesh on the 10 commandments & the Law of Love. They give me, as they say, "something to hang my hat on!" And as you all know, I have a lot of hats to hang!! (*put on retirement hat*)

"The Main thing is to keep the Main Thing the Main Thing!"

"People are like balloons... they are made to be lifted up!"

"The only way to measure love is to love without measure!"

"Stewardship is what we do with what we have because of what we believe."

"The only things we can take with us from this life are the things we have given away!"

When you dig others out of trouble, you find a place to bury your own!"

"If we take care of others, God will take care of us!"

"The poor are not a burden, but they our ticket to heaven!"

"We are all beggars at the doorstep of God's Mercy!"

"We are all on God's welfare plan!"

"Our God is a God of second chances!"

"The Lord is kind and merciful, slow to anger and rich in compassion!"

"The acid of vengeance does more harm to the container in which it is stored than it does to the one on whom it is poured!"

"Gentle Ways Are Always Best! There is nothing stronger than genuine gentleness."

"The way of Jesus & the Gospel is not the way of common sense!" "The Gospel is countercultural!"

"Work like everything depends upon you, and pray like everything depends upon God!"

"F.R.O.G." (put on frog hat) "Fully Rely on God"

"Service and Love – That's My Racket!"

"The service we give is the rent we pay for the space we occupy!"

"You are writing a Gospel, a chapter a day, by the things you do & the words you say."

"Preach the Gospel always, & if necessary, even use words!" "It is no use to walk anywhere to preach unless our walking is our preaching!"

"What on earth are you doing for heaven's sake?"

"No one rises to low expectations!"

"Good, better, best; never let it rest until your good is your better, and your better is your best."

"If we do our very best, God's grace will take care of the rest."

"Some people pursue happiness; others create it!"

"It is becoming increasingly more apparent to me that the only people in this world who are genuinely happy are the people who have learned how to pray."

"When it comes to prayer, A spoonful of silence can be worth more than a waterfall of words!"

"ASAP – always stop and pray"

"The shortest distance between two people is a smile!"

"Holy people are happy people; Happy People are Holy People."

"When you make God's people smile, you make God smile!"

"If you want to be a disciple of Jesus, you better look good on wood!"

"In war there are no winners or losers; only the living and the dead!"

"Always remember that the world is a better place because you are in it!"

"Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you'll be right!"

"Let the Holy Spirit do the heavy lifting!"

"We must be a Church where everybody is a somebody, and nobody is a nobody. There are no second stringers!"

"The defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each & every other human right. It is not progressive to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life."

"Teamwork makes the dream work!"



"The Church is not a museum to be preserved, but a garden to be cultivated."

"God is not always God the way we would be God if we were God."

"Faith does not make things easy; it makes them possible!"

"Teaching is love. If there is no love, it is like a garden without water!"

"The little things in life often become the big things!"

"Laugh a little louder, smile a little bigger, love a little deeper, & walk through life a little slower!"

"To be a saint, you don't have to do great things; just small things with great love."

"We can only claim to love God as much as that one person, or that one group of persons, that we love the least!"

"Long live our 4 billion year old mother! Good Planets are hard to find!"

"I love you, and there is nothing you can do about it!"

"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened!"

I hope you've heard something today that you can hang your hat on. And if not, hang your hat on this!

"God is good... all the time. All the time... God is good!"

Fr. Carl E. Scherrer

IC Pastor 2003-2022

Retired, not tired

Parish Blessing of Fr. Carl E. Scherrer Upon Retirement, at Masses July 9-10, 2022

5PM – Read by Kara Dell-Hunt, IC Business Manager

A story is told, O God, we pray,
Of a priest and his bunny who came here to stay.
In Twenty-Oh-Three, he arrived, through Your mercy
With a truckload of hats and some Cardinals jerseys.
We all shared our plans for a new church and steeple.
Fr. Carl said that “Church” means “God’s love through His people.”

As our worship space grew, greater love was the rule.
Fr. Carl forged a bond with Sr. Thea Bowman School.
In his life as a priest, he’s made many friends,
And we all know the truth, his care will not end.
Fr. Carl,
May the love of our God be yours to inherit
Through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

7AM – Read by Dave Gregson, ICS Principal

A story is told, O God, we implore,
Has it been 19 years? We would gladly take more.
Fr. Carl’s been our beacon through life’s urgent matters,
And sacrament journeys, from birth to hereafter.
Through thick and through thin, we’ve relied on his smile,
His humble wisdom, and persuasive style.

He’s worked right beside us, with God as his lamplight.
He’s earned all the stillness of life in its twilight.
And yet, with discernment, he’d like to test drive
What service looks like at age seventy-five.
Fr. Carl,
May the peace of our God be yours to inherit
Through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

9AM – Read by Dona Toenjes, former Parish Trustee

A story is told! O God, we insist,
We give You our thanks—You gave us the best.
That basketball boy from old Shawneetown?
We know him now as the Candy Corn Clown.
A priest he became, but never a bishop.
Though in Cardinal red, he’d like to play shortstop.
We’ll miss all his fables and endless smart quotes.
“The Main Thing’s the main thing” at the top of his notes.
On God’s priestly team, he’s not a backbencher.
He’s faithfully turning to bright, new adventures.
Fr. Carl,
May the strength of our God be yours to inherit
Through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen.

11AM – Read by John Adams, Pastoral Council President

A story is told, O God, we beseech,
Of a Shawneetown boy that you felt in your reach.
We thank you, dear Jesus, for guiding his folks.
We know his whole family laughed at his jokes.
To Father Jack Stallings we owe gratitude.
He saw in young Carl a priest’s attitude.
Through south Illinois, with racket in hand.
He brought love and service to all in the land.
His extravagant tenderness has touched us all.
Now his nieces and nephews can pick up the ball!
Fr. Carl,
May the joy of our God be yours to inherit
Through the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen.

~Lizanne Young, Director of Faith Formation

Tribute at Retirement Reception

Fr. Carl writes the funny poems
for all of the rest.

Mine won’t be as good as his
but I will do my best.

The day you thought you’d never see,
has finally arrived.

And despite whatever you once believed,
gosh darn it, you’re still alive.

Yes, these will be your golden years
to live life as you please.

You can play golf, tennis and power walk,
until you wear out your knees.

You cleaned out your office so quickly,
the clowns are off the wall.

You didn’t leave a single hat
or a Cardinal player’s ball.

When it’s time for a staff meeting,
a tear will come to our eye,

When you’re not there to say the prayer,
and share your lemon pie.

You always forbid the use of tape,
or hanging things with nails.
And despised the glitter left behind
by the ladies wearing veils.

All new dust busters we had to buy
for you wore them out it seems.
I hope you have one for around the house
to help Lucy when she cleans.

You can smile and be happy,
it’s been quite a ride.
never forgetting those days when
you wanted to run and hide.

You know that we’ll all miss you,
well, at least a little bit.

No homilies from you anymore
will we have to sit.

Let’s not dwell on what we’re losing,
Be happy for what has been.
The stories and the corny jokes,
And the confessing of one’s sin.

But, in all seriousness, Fr. Carl,
we simply want to say,
Good luck with what your future holds,
And happy retirement day!

~Hope Wienhoff, PSR Coordinator &
Liturgical Director