

Easter 5B - 2018 - First Communion Sunday

Share with you three images, which one is your favorite?

1. Not connected! A missionary in Africa lived in his central mission, which had a small electric plant to supply current for his Church and small rectory. Some natives from the outlying mission came to visit the padre. They noticed the electric light hanging from the ceiling of his living room. They watched wide-eyed as he turned on the little switch and the light came on. One of the visitors asked if he could have one of those bulbs. The priest thinking, he wanted it as a sort of trinket gave him a burned-out bulb. On his next visit to the outlying mission, the priest stopped at the hut of the man who had asked for the bulb. Imagine the priest's surprise when he saw the bulb hanging from an ordinary string! He had to explain that one had to have electricity power and a wire to bring the current to the bulb. Without a connection there is no power! In the Gospel of John we hear Jesus speaking of this same unity and intimacy, which should be part of our relationship with Jesus and with his Church. He illustrates this with a very earthy metaphor. "I am the true Vine and my Father is the Vine-grower. (*Msgr. Arthur Tonne, quoted by Fr. Botelho.*)

2. Fish on the beach sand: "Take a fish and place him on a beach. Watch his gills gasp and scales dry. Is he happy? No! How do you make him happy? Do you cover him with a mountain of cash? Do you get him a beach chair and sunglasses? Do you bring him a Playfish magazine and a martini? Do you wardrobe him in double-breasted fins and people-skinned shoes? Of course not! So, how do you make him happy? You put him back in his element. That's what you do. You put him back in the water. He will never be happy on the beach because he was not made for the beach. Indeed so, and the same is true for you and me. We will never be happy living apart from the One who made us and saved us. Just like a fish was made to live in water... we were made to live in close fellowship with our Lord... and nothing can take the place of that." (*Max Lucado, in his book, When God Whispers Your Name.*)

3. TK, the six-month old kitten currently ravaging our household, has just learned, or relearned, a valuable lesson; gravity is a constant. Not a constant as in the constants that fill equations or constitute some part of our thinking of things astronomical, but constant in the normal use of that word as in,

always there. The cat, young, healthy, and agile took a flying leap from a cat tree at a largish spider doing a bit of weaving on the ceiling above the back door. His joy at actually nailing the bug was obvious, but so was his consternation as he plunged the 9 feet between the ceiling and the floor. It does not matter how extraordinary the flying leap, in the end, gravity will have its way with you.

Gravity has its way with all of us, as any of us over a particular age can attest. Everything has a downward trajectory, everything, including chins and bellies and so on. That's the sad truth about gravity, but the good thing about gravity is this, your feet will always hit the floor when you get out of bed and never the ceiling. Your faith in gravity can be absolute, so long as you are abiding on earth.

Would that we were as good at abiding in faith in Jesus Christ as we are in gravity! (by Paula Murray)