

Homily
Friday of the Sixth Week of Easter
May 10, 2024

Who has had a perfect day, where everything went your way? For example, a day where I wake up and get out of bed; my body isn't aching, my eyes are clear and focused, I don't drop or spill anything, the traffic lights are all green, my meetings go according to the agenda, I finish all my work by the end of my shift, and my dogs do their business as soon as we get outside. You know, perfect.

I don't recall ever having a perfect day where everything went perfectly. Every day, I am experiencing some sort of crisis, just coming out of a crisis and just entering into a crisis. That's life. Life is complicated and messy. Things rarely go according to plan. Except, all things do go according to God's plan.

In our last RCIA class, we discussed how things never seem to work out the way we expect or intend. And we realized that God knows and God cares about each and every one of us. God created the heavens and the earth. God created time and space. In the moment he created the beginning, He also created the end and everything in between. He knows everything that has happened, is happening, and ever will happen. Everything is going according to God's plan.

And we all participate according to our free will. Even though He knows everything, He has given us the gift to choose according to our will. That's how much He loves us. And because of that free will, sin entered the world (thank you so much, Adam and Eve). The consequence is the pain and suffering we all experience. This is part of God's Will. Just as a woman in labor experiences pain, her anguish becomes joy and she forgets the struggle. We all have that to look forward to. We are struggling now, but when we align our will to His, and we keep our focus on Jesus, who knows our struggles intimately, we can rejoice.

It's when we take our focus off Jesus and look at our pain and suffering that we forget the love and joy He wants for us. But we will take our focus off Him from time to time. That's why He also gave us everything we need to return to Him. We have His example of how to live and how to suffer and how to rejoice. He gave us the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of His very Body and Blood to nourish, encourage and strengthen us.

It is when we return our focus on Him that we rejoice and can confidently ask the Father for whatever we need. God has a plan, and we are an intimate part of that plan, to live with Him and all the angels and saints in His heavenly court.