

Was It Worth It?

We hear many stories about women and men who value things or status over the people in their lives or over genuine fulfillment. Then something happens that throws them back on their heels and they are forced to face the question: Was it worth it? No, say the writers of today's readings. It is not worth losing yourself or the people you love. In fact, it is not worth risking your own integrity.

The Hebrew word for *vanity* can be translated as "worthless" or "foolish." The characters in the first reading and the Gospel passage were considered foolish because the labors and possessions that wore them down were ultimately worthless.

This idea of vanity or foolishness is a prominent theme in the Wisdom tradition. We all know that actions have consequences. It's these consequences that reveal what is good for us and what is not, what is

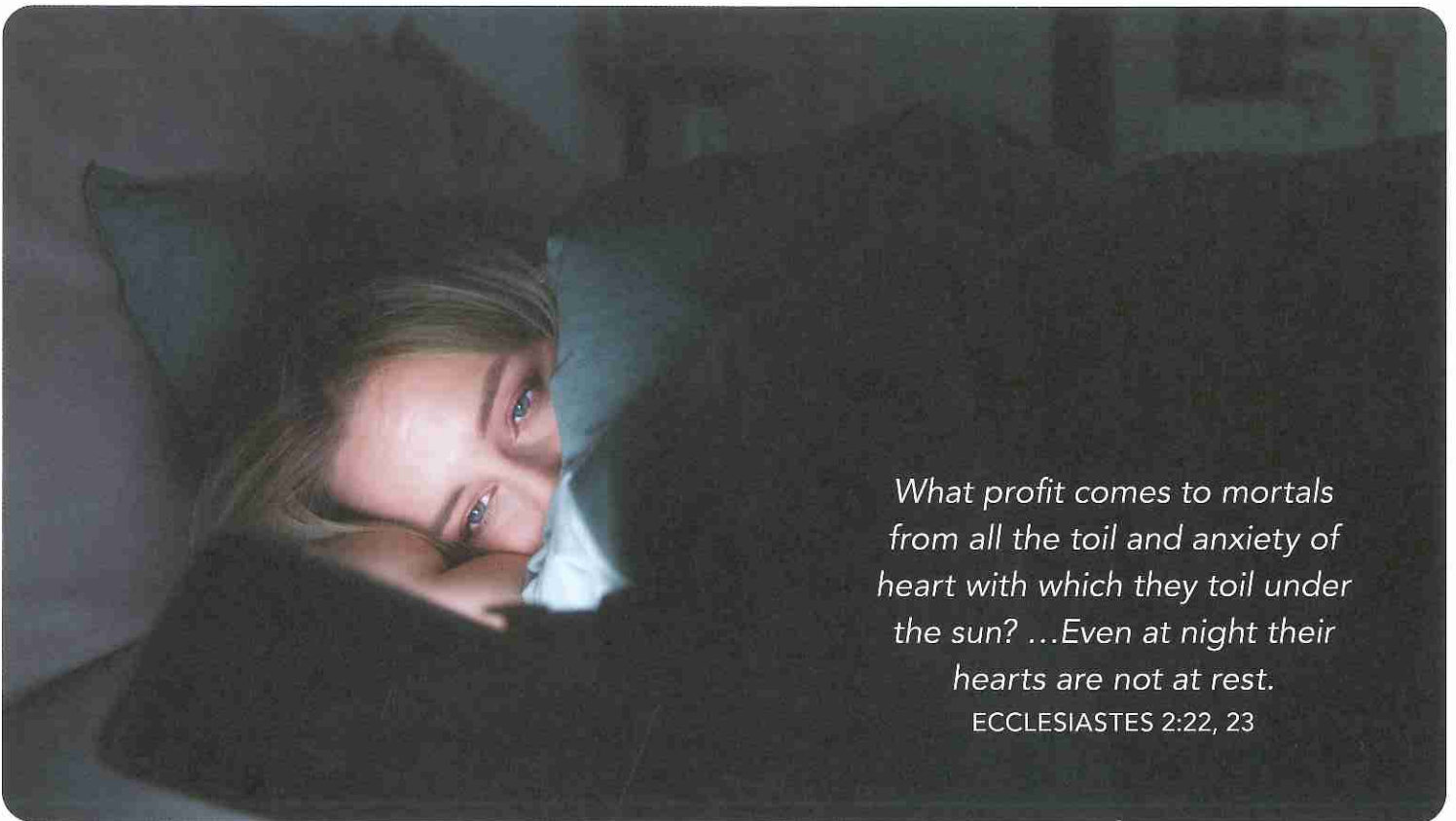
worth pursuing and what we should avoid. Those who learn from life experiences in this way are considered wise; those who don't are deemed foolish. We all know this; we have learned the truth of it from our own experience.

There is one more aspect that must be considered in making wise decisions. Which consequences are worth the effort we put into achieving them? Are we looking for short-term enjoyment or do we seek long-term satisfaction? The profit attained by the people in these readings did not last. They couldn't take it with them, so one might ask: Was it worth it?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- * **Think about the effort you put into achieving something. Was it worth it?**
- * **If not, what can you do to change this?**



*What profit comes to mortals
from all the toil and anxiety of
heart with which they toil under
the sun? ...Even at night their
hearts are not at rest.*

ECCLESIASTES 2:22, 23

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

REFLECTIONS

Time for Renewal

We have all had the experience of taking out a magazine subscription or group membership, and even before receiving the first installment or even meeting with the group, we receive a notice suggesting that we 'renew'. Generally, renewal comes with super-charged embellishments like 'Recommend two others and they will receive a subscription for free!' or 'Save 50% by renewing early!' If you are like most, such hype is at best frustrating and at worst likely to discourage.

In a spiritual sense, then, I am not surprised when people say that they find the ongoing message of 'getting right with Jesus' rather daunting. After all, they might say, 'I attend Mass, put money into the collection, and I even volunteered the last time there was a general call for help. Isn't that enough?' I do not deny that the Eucharist and the message of the scriptures is a constant call to renewal, but I remind them that the call is not mine, but the Lord's! It is the Lord's desire that we be constantly renewed.

Routine is important in our lives since most things operate on routine. Indeed, that type of routine is not so much boring as necessary and even helpful. But in our spiritual lives, routine - while necessary and helpful - can be deadly. It is certainly true that the Mass is the 'same' every time we celebrate. We may hear a different Eucharistic prayer and scriptural readings are different, but Mass is Mass. It is intended to be that way. The routine which we know allows us to enter more fully into the mystery of

the Eucharistic celebration, to delve more deeply into the love which God has for us in Christ Jesus.

The deadly aspect of routine is that we can yield to 'autopilot' mode. We can go through the motions of prayer, Mass and scripture reading. We can do all of these things but without thoughtful reflection behind the actions. That can be deadly to the spiritual life! So, yes, discipleship is intended to be a constant, ongoing renewal, a growing ever closer to the God who creates us in love and sustains us in our daily lives, and who will welcome us home to eternal life. And yet, that renewal is presented within the context of a spiritual routine. The challenge: Utilize the routine but don't let it numb you to the awesomeness of God's ever-present love.

From Father Ken



*The Lord calls us to be
Constantly Renewed*

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we begin August, we are in the Eighteenth Week in Ordinary Time. On Sunday we have the "Feast of The Transfiguration of The Lord." The Ordo states, Christ was transfigured in glory, the Son of Man has received kingship and dominion. He will come again in glory. Thanks be to God.

The Anointing of the Sick will take place during Mass on Thursday August 4th.

Confessions will be heard on first Friday, August 5th from 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM and from 5 PM until 7 PM. Please take advantage of this added opportunity for the sacrament of Confession.

Your generosity enabled us to support a missionary arm of SOLT (Society of Our Lady of The Holy Trinity) "Santa Maria Del Mexicano." A check for \$500.00 was sent to assist them in working with disadvantaged youth in Mexico. Irene Riches presented this ministry to us. If you have a Catholic organization in need of assistance, please let us know. We check all organizations out, prior to donating, to ensure they are following Church guidelines and are prudent in the use of donations.

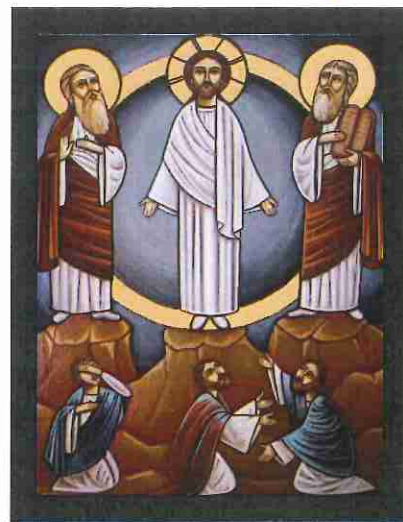
Julie Miller presented a "Christmas in July" planning project to the Advisory Committee, the AOK Group, and Altar Society. It will take place during Advent this year. I know it is early since Advent does not begin for a few months (Sunday November 27th). However, we are gathering names of individuals who would be eligible for receiving a gift this Christmas. A flyer in this week's bulletin explains our Christmas Giving Tree Ministry.

In closing, while researching the Catholic Church in China, I discovered that the Beijing Cathedral re-opened on July 11th after a six-month closure. The Chinese government closed the Cathedral, stating the closure was to control Covid 19. The faithful gathered outside the Cathedral before dawn and more than 101 people, mostly adults, were baptized. The Baptisms did not start until 5 PM. This re-opening is good news for the Church in China, but we must remember the Bishops and Priest imprisoned there for denouncing the

government's religious persecution. Let us not forget the thousands of Catholics who suffer persecution and the vexations that China's Catholics endure daily for speaking out about their Catholic faith and beliefs. Please pray for the Church in China and thank God for our freedom of religion in America.

May Christ's will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

*God Give You Peace,
Mike Pierson*



Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

Mass Intentions

- July 31, 2022 Repose of the Soul of Jennifer Kemp
By Tom & Ruth Kemp
- August 1, 2022 All Parishioners with August Birthdays by
Betty Tighe
- August 2, 2022 For our Seminarians, Safe travel and a
Productive year as they prepare to return
to School
- August 3, 2022 Repose of the Soul of Al Kelsey
By Jean Kelsey
- August 4, 2022 For all affected by wildfires across our
Nation & an end to extreme temperatures
- August 5, 2022 For Our Church Priests & Leaders
- August 6, 2022 For Intentions of All SFV Catholic
Chapel Parishioners (9AM Mass)
- August 6, 2022 For Intentions of All SFV Catholic
Chapel Parishioners (5PM Vigil)

Dear Padre,

The new priest assigned to our parish seldom shakes hands at the sign of peace during Mass. Isn't he supposed to?

You may be surprised to know that the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (154) calls for the priest to remain in the sanctuary at the sign of peace to avoid disrupting the assembly's exchange. He has the option of exchanging a sign of peace with the ministers—it's optional because to do so repeats the first greeting of peace he just extended to everyone in the assembly.

In the United States, an exception is made for special occasions such as weddings, funerals, or when community leaders are present. In those cases, the *GIRM* allows the priest to offer the sign of peace to people sitting near the sanctuary.

Ironically, many parishioners view the presider's participation less as a distortion of the rite than as a positive indicator of their priest's social skills, as in "Father is such a people person!"

Offering—and being offered—an actual sign of Christ's peace during Mass is intended to be poignant, prayerful, and powerful, with a different kind of fanfare than when greeters welcome worshipers before Mass or when the presider shakes hands and socializes immediately after Mass.



Liguori Publications is celebrating 75 years of ministry throughout 2022.

Follow progress toward our October 23 anniversary date in *Liguorian* magazine and at Liguori.org.



CNS/EDGARD GARRIDO, REUTERS

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR
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Calendar

Monday
AUGUST 1

St. Alphonsus Liguori,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
Jer 28:1–17
Mt 14:13–21

Tuesday
AUGUST 2
Weekday

Jer 30:1–2,
12–15, 18–22
Mt 14:22–36
or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

Wednesday
AUGUST 3
Weekday

Jer 31:1–7
Mt 15:21–28

Thursday
AUGUST 4
St. John Vianney, Priest
Jer 31:31–34
Mt 16:13–23

Friday
AUGUST 5
Weekday
Na 2:1, 3; 3:1–3, 6–7
Mt 16:24–28

Saturday
AUGUST 6
The Transfiguration
of the Lord
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14
2 Pt 1:16–19
Lk 9:28b–36

Sunday
AUGUST 7
Nineteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wis 18:6–9
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19
or 11:1–2, 8–12
Lk 12:32–48
or 12:35–40



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

The quest for personal prestige can become a spiritual malady masquerading itself even behind good intentions: for example, when behind the good that we do and preach, we are only seeking ourselves and our own affirmation—that is, getting ahead and climbing up.

ANGELUS, OCTOBER 17, 2021