



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! On this Labor Day weekend, we pause to salute all of those who make our lives what they are – the laborers whose braun and brains, sweat and toil, generosity and goodness contribute to our way of life. This is no small thing, for which it is right to GIVE THANKS.

In this pause of recognizing laborers, it's good to reflect on our relationship with labor. Often that relationship is weary, all or nothing; it swings to extremes; from Summer to September. Our faith teaches us there is another way, there's a relationship between God, Holiness, Leisure and Work.

I share an article here highlighting this relationship and commend your reflection on your relationship with work. We know that there's truth to the expressions, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Or from GB Shaw "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." I think Jesus Christ would agree! We need Holiness and that's the right relationship to God in all things!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

Finding the Creative Spirit of God in Play! thesimplecatholic.blog

According to G.K. Chesterton, "It might reasonably be maintained that the true object of all human life is play. Earth is a task garden; heaven is a playground" (From the essay *Oxford from Without*).

This quote packs so much theology. What stands out most to me in Chesterton's thought is the word *true*. I think that while earthly life consists of toil and repeated work, God planted the seeds for *true* life to flourish in our earthly lives and hopefully culminating in the heavenly playground if we achieve sainthood. Let me explain.

The Sabbath is Made for Man The opening chapter in Genesis charts out the creation of the world by God. Creation occurred in six days [periods of time] and God rested on the seventh day. Why does God need rest? Is he not outside of time and space—thus He would never tire? The real purpose of the institution of the Sabbath rest on Sunday is because God knows that humanity needs time for rest and recreation! True joy and creativity oftentimes comes from our resting and recreational activities. Last summer I read a biography about St. John Paul II and it talked at length about the saint's love of skiing. The late pope encountered God and recharged himself to continue his papal duties through this playful activity.

Finding Fulfillment on Sunday God's creative genius established the holiness of resting on the Sabbath. In Catholicism, the Mass represents the ultimate fulfillment of the Jewish Sabbath. According to retired Pope Benedict XVI's book, *Spirit of the Liturgy*, the liturgy is a "playful thing" where people are in the presence of God, playing like children without aiming to achieve an end. Playing games with loved ones can generate a similar joy to that experienced during a Catholic liturgy, where the Eucharist is received weekly. Board games, lawn games, basketball, football, or soccer are all irrelevant as the creative activity of play itself is what brings joy.

Work and toil certainly has its place in our earthly lives. It can even serve as a means to holiness. Yet, we should not forget the importance of play as a means to holiness. Chesterton's words are like a theological medicine that thaws my impatient heart, especially since I tend to be more serious. This week my challenge to myself is to look for God's creative Holy Spirit in playing with my young children.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION
 Friday, September 6, 2024
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
 All are welcome

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

Mass on Monday, September 2 will be held at 9:00AM. There will be NO 7:30AM Mass and NO Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

LABOR DAY The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 2 and will reopen on Tuesday, September 3 with our Regular Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday from 9AM-5PM and Friday from 9AM-3PM.

236