

A post from Fr. Niblick  
March 25, 2020

The first argument I had when I came to SMG was with a wonderful woman named Helen Seaman, a retired single schoolteacher who had been a Catholic sister. She lived in the Meadow Lake condos and she loved her life.

The argument was over weather. The parish used to have a summer carnival (which I cancelled after three years, another story) and I arrived on July 1 with the carnival set to begin later in July. The daily Mass petitions were voiced by those attending and there was a tsunami of petitions for “good weather for the carnival.”

I finally couldn't take it anymore, so I said at the end of a Mass my first week, “God doesn't do weather, temperature and barometric pressure does weather.”

Helen was outraged at my words and we had a good natured argument that lasted for years until she got sick.

My point was that it is important to make our religious beliefs and convictions reasonable as all Catholic Faith is premised on the principle that faith builds on reason it does not replace it.

Essentially, that belief extends the conviction that I think is central to any realistic reason for the Church and any serious belief in Christ and the Gospels and that is, that creation is not finished and we work with the Creator and all the rest of creation in bringing creation to fulfillment. It is the plan of God that there be no independent agents in this task.

It is not all up to God, and our existence is not incidental to God, and as I said to my friend Helen, the only God can do is love and when we love we are acting with God and as God acts.

I am given to tears quite often these days when I think about the losses that we are experiencing, not so much mine, but the losses of innocence that our children are learning, the losses of human touch and contact romantically, sexually, and in the sheer joys of being young and alive that so many young people are experiencing, and the losses of shared coffees, beers, words, and deeds that are essential to our being human together when we are out and about and in church together.

So, think about who loves you and those that you love and where that love comes from and where it goes.

Today is the Feast of the Annunciation so it is 9 months to Christmas Day, and I wonder what Christmas Day 2020 will be like as I am sure you do too.