

April 1, 2020

Many of you have enjoyed those little Living Faith booklets and a new quarter has begun and you can find them online. The publishing company has graciously made them available for free. Just type in your browser www.livingfaith.com or Google “Living Faith Catholic Devotional Booklets.” We will try to get a link on our website and Facebook page.

That I hope is of some good news to you today if you are a fan of those booklets.

It is hard not to get ahead of oneself, to find my mind conjuring all kinds of future scenarios, good ones and bad ones.

I am not doing a Sweet Jesus on you and I have said clearly that real mature faith does not keep us from desperation or, even, despair, remember Jesus sweat blood, but there are some elements of my faith story that help me, at times, to put myself onto a bigger platform.

Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen was just an acquaintance of mine, I had been on a retreat that he conducted some years ago, but he was and remains an inspiration to me.

He was the archbishop of Seattle from 1975 until his retirement at the age of 70 in 1991. He was very conscious of the teachings of Jesus in the so called “last judgment” in Matthew 26 and he tried to see Christ in people of all kinds.

Among other things in full accord with Catholic teaching he actively protested the arming of the Trident submarines in Puget Sound which was a part of his diocese. This brought down the wrath of John Paul II on him and for a goodly period of time, I am sure, his life

was a living hell of humiliation and doubt, although he never spoke ill of that pope.

He was forced into all kinds of examinations and tests of orthodoxy and that pope forced him to accept another bishop as a watchdog for a number of years.

He lived almost 20 years after his retirement in a simple house in Seattle and in an interview near the end of his life he expressed not an ounce of bitterness or regret, he said, "I just sit here and let God love me." He died in 2018.

So, when my mind gets ahead of itself I try to look out my window toward the north and just let God love me and take heart in the fact that all is temporary and this too shall pass. Try it and know that when I am letting God love me, I am loving all of you.

PS As an aside, when I went with Bishop Gaughan to Rome in the late 80's when he was incapacitated by a series of strokes I had to accompany him to his one on one meeting with John Paul II, Archbishop Hunthausen was the appointment in front of us and I met him in a kind of waiting room after Bishop Gaughan went into his meeting.

He sat with me on a bench for a few minutes and the priest doorkeeper pointed out that the archbishop was sitting where Mikal Gorbachev had sat while waiting for his appointment and I was sitting where George Bush II at another time sat when he was there for his first meeting with the pope.

