

April 25, 2020

I have heard from many families that having their older college age kids and young adults home again is a kind of surprise bright spot in these sad days.

When they were young, time was cramped and mostly went so fast that individual moments didn't get to be appreciated and enjoyed as much as they could have or would have liked to have been, but now with lots of time the re-gathering around the table gives the time for thoughts to linger rather than rush onwards.

When the Ivy League Schools abandoned wisdom and knowledge and became mostly employment agencies or job placement outlets, wisdom and knowledge got left on the margins, the values of our elders and ancestors to a great extent got left on the margins and projected income became for many the determining factor in what they would do with their lives rather than personal happiness or sense of fulfillment, much less, vocation or calling.

All of education eventually followed the same path and, while you do not have to agree with me, we all have suffered much from a loss of wisdom while our net worth increased.

Innocent little high school freshmen are under pressure to pass math tests because they might not get into the college that will get them the job that will get them the income "everyone" has decided that they need to have to be happy.

They don't have much experience so how can they know what will make them happy?

Ironically, vocational education, became the term applied to the education of, so called, lesser skills or manual labor skills, but in my

observation, vocational schools were where people went who valued their own happiness.

I understand the value and privilege of money, but I have learned with age that value and privilege are fluid notions and when my plans for life were abruptly terminated and had to be changed when I was thrown out of the diocese and seminary in 1970, and later when I was fired at Noll, I had lots of downtime that afforded me the opportunity to take deeper breaths and consult sources of wisdom and knowledge that I never would have considered had I not been given what at the time was not understood as a blessing, but now is, the luxury of, precisely, time.

I would not be the luckiest person of the face of the earth to get to do what I do where I do it with the people I do it with.

Enjoy your kids now if you are lucky enough to have them in the same house with you.