

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – DECEMBER 16, 2018

## **Dear Parishioners and Families,**

It seems to me: When God created man and woman, God placed his own image and likeness into a primate animal framework. The animal framework in us is physical. The image and likeness of God is not physical, but immaterial and spiritual like God. Humans are hybrids.

God placed into our physical world the laws of evolution. These laws direct that all animals are by nature **self-seeking** and those that survive are the fitter for the next generation. The image and likeness which God places in our physical frame is **other seeking**, looking to the good of others now and the next generation. In this one organism which we call human, there is the self-seeking animal and the other seeking image and likeness of God.

God created us with an inherent conflict. I call this the Original Conflict. I think Theologians call it Original Sin. But it is not sin in the ordinary sense of the word. We see this in the ages of man. Children are by nature self-seeking and we try to teach them to share then and to give. This growth away from self-seeking toward seeking to assist others is a continual learning stage throughout our entire life.

Psalm 103 captures this original disparity. “God knows of what we are made, God remembers we are dust.” Learning to diminish self-seeking for service to others is life-long. This advances us beyond the laws of evolution and embraces the nature of God.

The Church teaches that Mary, the future Mother of God, was conceived without this conflict. She would never be governed by self-seeking but like God always seeking service to God and others.

When Jesus is conceived in Mary, Jesus is the image and likeness of God from the beginning. Jesus is God. God is incorporated in the physical framework of our animal heritage. Jesus is also free from this original conflict. His mind is always over His matter.

All through the public life of Jesus, he explains he has come “not to be served but to serve.” He has come to do the will of the Father, not the will of the self-serving instincts of His animal frame.

Since Mary and Jesus are the only two beings that are privileged by God to be conceived without this inherent conflict, God recognizes that our journey will be one of growth but also mistakes. God knows the dust of which we are made. God knows us and extends to us favor and forgiveness.

The title of Pope Francis book becomes clear, *The Name of God is Mercy*. Psalm 103 speaks the same. “As tenderly as a father treats his children, so God treats those who revere him”.

## **New Year’s Eve Party**

Last week’s bulletin carried news of a New Year’s Eve Party if we can attain 60 adults. There are flyers in the back of church with some particulars of the party. If you wish to come to the party, you need to sign up by Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. The announcement of whether the party is viable with sufficient will be made the weekend before Christmas, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.