

Companions on the Journey

September 11, 2022

Dear Friends,

Last week in my praying a realization dawned on me about the word “entrust.” Our Lord had asked me to place the priesthood to which he had called me and in which I have lived for the past fifty years, into his hands. He asked me to “entrust” my priesthood to Him. Furthermore, Our Lord indicated that this kind of “entrusting” is not at all foreign to God but is actually the divine dynamic which exists in God. The Father entrusts to the Son and the Son to the Father and the Holy Spirit entrusts to both of them and receives from both of them. There is an ongoing mutual entrusting of everything in God.

This is the reason why we human beings are capable of entrusting ourselves. Spouses do this in their marriage vows. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life, they say. Children are entrusted into the hands of their parents. Parents are in turn, later on, entrusted into the hands of their now-grown children. Siblings are entrusted to each other in mutual fashion. Entrusting means trusting with. It does not imply or convey any kind of ownership or dominance over another person. Our children are not ours as our possessions are ours. They have been entrusted to us. The Lord asks us in turn to entrust them back to Him at various times and for their benefit.

Just take some time to reflect on and ponder this word: Entrust. And try to examine the role it actually plays in your life and pray for the grace to be able to recognize the role Our Lord desires it to play in your life. Right here Right now. Is there something you desire deeply? Can you turn that desire over to the Lord? What about a particularly gnarly problem in your family or your own life? Can you entrust that into the hands of Our Lord, asking for his help and deliverance?

What about a child, a friend, a spouse, or a parent? Growing pains. Past hurts and real family wounds. Can you just pick up the whole of it and convey it to Our Lord? Why do this, you ask? Because the Lord is the only one who can really do anything with all of this. Furthermore, he has already born the weight and the agony of bearing all these crosses when he carried his own. God the Father entrusted his only begotten Son to us. We did not treat him very well. Some of us hanged him on a tree. But all of us contributed in our own way because of our sins. But our God is not like us in the area of paybacks and vendettas. God does not hold a grudge. God is just. God is merciful. And God gives us many, many second chances. He releases us. He sets us free. He forgives us our sins and failings.

The Father and the Son entrust their own Holy Spirit into us. As a gift. As a source of empowerment enabling us to live the way of Jesus and give glory to the Father. And what about us? We entrust our hearts to those we know are beloved to us. We entrust ourselves into the hands of Our Lord. Jesus himself as he dies on the cross calls out: “Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit.” I am going to go out on a limb here and say that I believe most Catholics who have read thus far in my column are thinking that they have not really thought about their life and their relationships so much in terms of entrusting. I admit I did not do say either in the way I have tried to be priest and pastor for you. But I submit to you that this entrusting is precisely what we have been doing. It is precisely what the Lord desires us to be doing. It is what allows us to make the gift of ourselves to the other. AND to receive the gift of another’s love entrusted to us. Perhaps we did not know before. But we know now. Please pray and reflect and meditate on this entrusting you do and are called to do. The conscious act of entrusting and receiving another entrusting of themselves will enhance your life a great deal.

Peace,
Msgr. McHenry