

Living the Spirit

I would like this insert to be a personal reflection which I can share with you. Whatever I write here, I do have a point to make. Let me make it right away. It is this: we do not grow or live out our spiritual life without some connection to others. Even the contemplative who leaves the world behind cannot avoid this connection. We may say that we all need to be a part of some community of life. In this we are not far from what God wills for us.

Parish life and my own life are very much joined. One does not find it surprising for a priest to find this so. When the summer comes around at Our Lady I can expect that there will be a Carnival event. This year as I lived through the time I had to note that there are many whom I no longer manage to see or talk to or hear their concerns in passing by the stands.

That is because I find walking a bit more challenging. It is also because others seem to be tiring of the event itself.

Such events as happen in our midst – and you will have to think here of those that affect you – can offer a real challenge for spiritual growth. How often we have the opportunity to live out our faith by our confident hope and our effective love in our relationships with others. I think here especially of my past. Summers were times when parents and family were so generous with their time, talents and treasures. I would call it a happy childhood. This was followed by summers free from school activities. I still recall many happy times. Do you? Why not do so?

As July ended three of my classmates and another priest friend came to visit me. We had a good lunch, thanks to help given me. We talked about the good old days. We commemorated those who came to mind by recalling what good they gave to us. After my visitors left I felt renewed. On reflection, I thought what a blessing my classmates had been to me. More of them are now with the Lord than with me. Yet, I know there is a community that transcends the limits of time.

Summertime means a chance for most of us to have some few moments when we can just relax. Did you ever think that such moments could be enhanced by living a spirit of prayer? Surely God is with us in so many ways. If you travel will you even for a moment feel the wonder of God's creating power?

There is beauty all around us, but so often we do not see it. Here I think, too, of the beauty that we know in others. I would like to think that everyone thinks there is true beauty in a mother's face. It is the beauty enhanced by love. Let us continue to find in this season opportunities to live the Spirit. In a Year of Faith let God be a part of your time. Even summertime!

God love you always!
Monsignor David Morrison