



Sunday Blast

April 23, 2023

"In the Image of God and Human Dignity"

Then God said, "Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humans in his image... [Genesis 1:26-27]

Understanding Dignity

This past month I've spent a lot of time exploring what "dignity" means in spiritual terms, especially to the Christian community. My conclusion is that "dignity" encompasses more than what I have previously thought. Somehow the word itself seems too small to represent what it means!

Over and over in my reading I found reference to these verses of Genesis, chapter 1:26-27. We were created in the image of God! Just imagine what that means! All of our world was created by God, and we – yes we – were created in the image of God. To truly believe that and live into that image of God leaves no aspect of our lives untouched. Our thoughts, speech, morals, ethics, values are all driven by this gift of God's grace. We didn't give ourselves "dignity," God gave us dignity. Just as we given "dominion" over creation, we need also to exercise dominion over human dignity.

Created In the Image of God and Redeemed by Christ

In a world where dignity and self-worth are often linked to success, power, and status, we are challenged to find dignity, value, and purpose that eclipses these transitory benchmarks. As Christians, we believe that true dignity comes from being made in the image of God and being redeemed by Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Truly believing this and living like this helps us understand our worth and identity as Christians. We are reminded of the depth of our dignity, which is not tied to our accomplishments or failures, but rather to our identity as children of God. In this way, the concept of dignity and living in dignity takes on a new meaning, one that is grounded in the eternal truth of God's love for us and all of creation.

Earth Day: April 22, 2023 – What Does that Mean to the Adirondacks?

The Adirondack Park is a national treasure, and a person can't live in the park for a day without realizing what a blessing of creation the Adirondack Park is. At 6.1 million acres it is the largest park in the contiguous United States. It has the largest intact temperate deciduous forest in the world. Its borders contain over 2,800 lakes and ponds, and 1,500 miles of rivers fed by 30,000 miles of brooks and streams. The Park is a mix of public and private lands, with about half of the Park consisting of "forever wild" Forest Preserve lands, protected by our state's constitution. It is the strongest conservation law in the world, and something New Yorkers take great pride in. (see <https://www.adirondackcouncil.org/page/blog-139/news/whats-next-climate-change--the-adirondacks-1173.html>) For these reasons we should take time out to give thanks for this Park and ask for guidance to help us to wisely "have dominion" over the Adirondack Park.



Prayer box: for healing -- Mark, Robin, Gloria, Lucy, Joyce, Andy; Fr. John's soul and comfort for Wes and Gail; for Lynn's upcoming surgery.

We turn our thoughts to the Creator, or Great Spirit, and send thanks for all the gifts of Creation. Everything we need to live a good life is here on this Mother Earth. For all the love that is still around us, we give thanks to the Creator. Amen. (the last prayer is from the "Iroquois Thanksgiving Address.")