25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you believe in ghosts?

We are God’s creatures. We have a body and we have a mind. Each possesses energy – energy that is a sharing in the nature of our God. Our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit. Our minds or as we like to call it ‘our souls’, are filled with God’s grace or as we have seen, God’s energy.

Science tells us through the laws of thermodynamics that energy is neither created nor destroyed. That is the ‘what’ that we know. What is the ‘why’? That’s where our religion comes in. God’s shares with us his energy for both body and soul. This energy is one since we are both body and soul. When we die, this one energy goes on. Our bodies won’t go on (again the second law of thermodynamics), but we will.

Let me tell you a story.

When our dad died, mom was a bundle of nerves. One night, alone in bed, mom was awakened by Jimmy. Now Jimmy was her sister, Clara’s, boy. Jimmy was a sickly child and was a favorite of mom’s. Jimmy died at a very young age. Now, mom said, he sat at the edge of mom’s bed. He appeared grown up but mom knew he was Jimmy. He said to her, ”You do not have to be afraid.” Then Jimmy left her. After her encounter, mom settled down and was able to deal with her grief.

Was it a dream? Maybe. St. Joseph, of course, had dreams too. Scientists say there can be communication between entities regardless of time and space. It’s called entanglement. Jimmy’s communication with mom has a scientific parallel.

When we die our energy does not just fade away. Our energy, we, lasts forever.

A few words of caution.

Some people try to contact the dead. We do it all the time though our thoughts and prayers. Some people, however, try to force the situation by séance. Dark rooms, candles, incense, incantations. No. Recently a kid tried to do a séance in his home in Cheektowaga. He had candles. Candles galore. And he burned his house down. Light a candle in church and say a prayer. It’s safer and more Catholic that way.

Some people try the Ouija board. Got to be careful about that. A lot of movies tell us so. As I have said, there is anti-energy out there – evil. With such things like Ouija boards and scary movies and books, there is the possibility of opening yourself up to this anti-energy that can make a mess out of your life.

There are people who are sensitive to the energies around them. They can be adept or adept at fraud. We are aware but beware. At fifty bucks a shot at contacting a loved one, it’s cheaper to open a prayer book and talk directly to those who have gone ahead of us.

Rest comfortably that once we are adopted by our God through the sacrament of baptism, we are protected from evil. Evil has no power over us. The sacrament has an exorcism to free us from evil’s grasp and the sacred oil of the catechumen is placed on the recipient. In the Rite of Christian Initiation there are many prayers of exorcism. If anyone is attacked by the anti-energy, the energy of exorcism is again imposed on the person. The Church has our backs against any evil.

If you want to be energized against any evil, use the sacramentals of the Church- scapulars, medals, rosaries, holy water. To rid yourself of evil, there is the Sacrament of Reconciliation and Mercy, or, as we say, confession. Confession is good for the soul.

So use your energy well. It is God-given. Re-energize often through the Sacraments and private prayer. When it comes to ghosts, separate fiction from fact. Don’t be scared. Be confident. Be confident that God and His Church has your backs.

Amen. Alleluia.