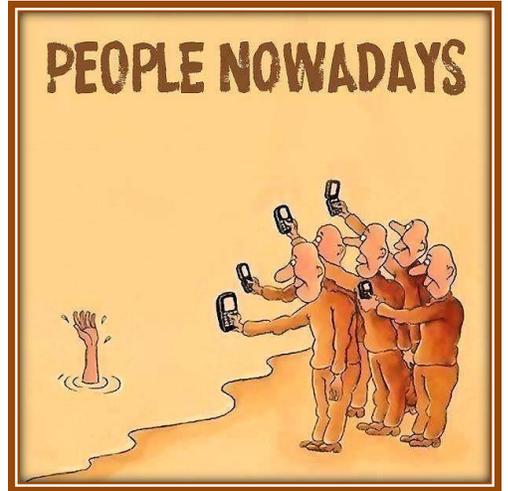




THE HUMAN PERSON: MASTERPIECE OF GOD'S CREATION

A few weeks ago with help from our Parish Ushers, our Parish Website (www.ohrfreeport.org), our Parish Twitter Account (@OHRFreeportNY), and our Parish Facebook Page (@ohrfreeport), recipients of Our Holy Redeemer's Sunday bulletin had the opportunity to discover many things. Amongst those things (within the coloured-front cover featuring Rembrandt's vision of the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Saint Luke XV:11-32) and the coloured-back cover featuring our generous advertisers (**please thank one of them with a visit, a card, or a phone call**)) was not only the very popular *Word Search*, the noteworthy *Faith and Finances* (thank you for answering the call to take **one small step for a parishioner** with your weekly financial increase of \$10, \$20, \$25, ... that as you can see from that same Page, is leading to **one GIANT LEAP for a Parish**), and the encouraging and educational *Our Holy Redeemer School of Religious Education Page* (please don't forget to **get your free FORMED subscription by visiting www.formed.org and using our Parish Code 4j2hgr**), but also a *Message from the Pastor Revisited*. In that message (copies of which can be obtained by visiting the Parish bulletin archives (15 September 2019) at www.ohrfreeport.org), I attempted to make children, students, parents, teachers, ... all of us aware of the growing "Cellphone Epidemic". That epidemic, as witnessed on 16 September 2019 in Oceanside, New York has many symptoms that if not treated, will claim the lives of many more people.



Just as children, students, parents, teachers, ... all of us need to spend less time looking down (and more time looking up), less time with our ears plugged (and more time with our ears open), less time raising our hands for selfies (and more time raising our hands for prayer), so too children, students, parents, teachers, ... all of us need to spend less time thinking about and caring for "brother sun and sister moon", and more time thinking about and caring for our "brother John" and "sister Jane".

Yes, we have been charged to be "stewards of all creation" (Pope Francis, *Laudato Si* #236), but let us not forget that **the masterpiece of God's creation is the human person**. All too often it happens that people want to "save the planet" but not the babies, people want to "protect the environment" but not the babies, people want to "stop climate change" but not abortion. "At times" writes Pope Francis, "we see an obsession with denying any pre-eminence to the human person; more zeal is shown in protecting other species than in defending the dignity which all human beings share in equal measure. Certainly, we should be concerned lest other living beings be treated irresponsibly. But we should be particularly indignant at the enormous inequalities in our midst, whereby we continue to tolerate some considering themselves more worthy than others" (ibid. #90).

Please use the upcoming month of October/Respect Life Month, to make **the Confetior** part of your daily prayer-life. And as you pray there-in: "... what I have done, and what I have failed to do", pause long enough to consider those questions in Light of your responsibility to "love thy neighbour (born and unborn) as thyself."

"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me."

"Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for Me."

(Saint Matthew XXV:40, 45)