

**SAID ED May 28, 2017**

## **Memorials**

Please don't get me wrong, I love animals. When I was growing up, we always had a cat. Barney, Misty, Rusty and Sam were all part of my childhood experiences. When I was assigned Good Shepherd parish in Henrietta a kitten adopted us, and since both my Co Pastor Partner and I liked kittens we took her in. I named her Quinta—that's Latin for the number 5! (Several other cats had wandered into the rectory but met untimely deaths on what, at that time was the very busy East Henrietta Rd.) Quinta moved with me into different residences in Good Shepherd twice and then to Saint Charles. In fact, I jokingly referred to her as one of the Parish Hospitality Ministers because she often ran to the door when she heard the bell ring, snuggling up to people as they came in to carry on business. So I know the importance of pets in our lives.

I write this column today about an increasing phenomenon that perplexes me. Every time I look at the obituaries in the paper or on line, I see how many people request that memorial donations be made to Lollypop Farm. I want to pull my hair out! So many of these people have been ministered to over the years by their parishes. Their community of faith has walked with them on the journey; fellow members have shared their up's and down's. They have been nurtured and comforted in their last days by parish members and Clergy from their Parishes, but, when their death arrives, so often memorials are dedicated to the Humane Society or to Lollypop farm. I find this annoying because of the great need that parishes have to receive memorial gifts and because of the immense endowments that these fine organizations already have.

Parishes exist for people! We take very good care of the sick and the dying. We have excellent Pastoral Care of the infirm. We anoint people in the Sacrament of the Sick with people several hundred times each year. Many of our 77 ministries are focused upon the dying, sick and the grieving. People generally love their parish! Why do people not think to fund these wonderful ministries I wonder? Memorial donations made in the name of a loved one upon death are a great way to give back to the community when someone dies.

Won't you please consider our Church of the Assumption as a worthy recipient of memorial donations?

Let me repeat, I have nothing against Lollypop Farm, the American Cancer Society, the Humane Society, Mary Cariola Center and the like. These are all fine charities worthy of our support. BUT I want to raise everyone's awareness that the Church of the Assumption is also a very worthy recipient of memorial donations. Please remember our parish in your Last Will and Testament and when making a memorial gift in memory of someone has died and gone home to God.

Give it some thought would you?

I wish you all a very good Memorial Day weekend and remind you to be safe.

And have a good week!

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