



Pastor's Message

April 25, 2020

Earlier this week, while I was checking-out at the local supermarket, the gentleman in front of me at the cashier was wholly unhurried in his actions. With movement which was intensely meticulous and exercised with exaggerated precision, every item purchased was placed in his personal shopping bags. Slowly he turned, step-by-step, seemingly believing there is no one, except him, shopping at the local supermarket today.

The cashier, the bagger, the shoppers standing behind me in line at the checkout and I, were waiting and waiting, watching the self-absorbed behavior of the man. But, incredibly, no one said anything to him! What were the lessons learned? What moved us to say nothing?

1. It took a lot of patience to react as we did watching him move as slowly and precisely, in the same manner each day of how the sun rises from the east to its setting in the west. Patience, as the evidence indicated, was practiced quite well by all! (At least, it appeared that way, since we all had masks over our faces, so I could not read anyone's lips). But, I do think we handled ourselves with dignity, with the help of God. So, that is Lesson #1. Patience will win the day, if we allow it to guide us. Let's be patient, before any other action. Especially, during this difficult time in our lives with the lingering pandemic.
2. Lesson #2. Sometimes we really don't know "what's up" with the other person, so we got to be slow with judgment. Did he have a mental or psychological disorder? Could there be something "off" about him which we do not know? If he was not well, wouldn't it have been horrible if one of us reproached him for his seemingly self-centered behavior? Sure. Therefore, avoid rash judgment of others.
3. Although I did say to the cashier, "That man was incredible." So I was not perfect in my response. Then, to her credit, she taught me a lesson. She said, "Yeah, but what is fifteen minutes extra out of our lives, as we fight a thing out there that could kill us forever." Good answer by her; shame on me! Lesson #3: We got to wake up to what is absolutely most important in life, every day.

God bless you,
Fr. Marc