

Message From The Pastor

February 23, 2021

“As a dog returns to it vomit, so a fool returns to his folly.” - Proverbs 26:11

The aforementioned is one of the most unusual verses in The Holy Bible, (as well as one of the most nauseating). However, I found an interesting commentary which provides insight to the lesson being taught in the sacred verse.

“Isn’t that odd? Not the verse, but what a dog does. Why does a dog return to his own vomit anyway? If you’ve ever witnessed this, it’s a very odd behavior. The dog eats something so disgusting, and it is as if they can’t help but do it. It’s as if the dog is drawn to its own vomit; they cannot help but eat that very thing that they just threw up. If you’ve watched a dog ever do this, it’s not like the dog is reluctant about eating its own vomit either. The dog doesn’t walk towards the vomit like, “I don’t know if I should do this. Last time it didn’t work out so well.” The dog cannot help but actually do it, and not only that, but the dog very happily enjoys eating its own vomit, something that moments earlier made it sick to its stomach.

We, as humans, so often return to the very things which are absolutely ill-advised. We return to certain patterns, behaviors, and sins over and over and over again. Like a dog, there are signs that we find ourselves drawn to; that we almost cannot help but return to them. At times it feels like we actually have no choice in the matter. We have sins and struggle that at certain times it actually seems like we are enjoying, yet moments later we are sick to our stomach thinking about what we were just doing.”

The commentary is thought-provoking! But, it is not entirely true in one important aspect. We have a choice in the matter of sin or not, even though we may feel we do not. With free will and the help of the Lord, we do not have to return to the patterns of behavior which are sinful. We can overcome them, unlike a dog that seems not able to do so in his/her pattern of behavior.

Be strong. Be faithful. Be aware of behavior which can become a pattern of sin!

Peace
Fr. Marc