Your Favorite Page

Come on! Really?!

I couldn’t make up stuff this good. Here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On Tesco’s Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom)

“Do not turn upside down.”

(We'll, duh, a bit late, huh?)

On Sainsbury’s peanuts

“Warning contains nuts.”

(Talk about a news flash!)

On Boots’ Children Cough Medicine

“Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.”

(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off bulldozers.)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding

“Product will be hot after heating.”

(In the shoplifter special?)

On a Japanese food processor

“Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.”

(Step 3: say what?)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts

“Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts.”

(Step 3: say what?)

On a Sears hairdryer

“No to be used for the other use.”

(Now, somebody out there, help me on this. I’m a bit curious.)

On Boots’ Children Cough Medicine

“Do not use while sleeping.”

(That’s the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Fritos

“You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside.”

(The shoplifter special?)

On a Sears hairdryer

“Do not use while sleeping.”

(That’s the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Dial soap

“Directions: Use like regular soap.”

(And that would be?? …)

On some Swanson frozen dinners

“Serving suggestion: Defrost.”

(But, it’s just a suggestion.)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron

“No iron clothes on body.”

(But wouldn’t this save me time?)

On Nytol Sleep Aid

“Warning: May cause drowsiness.”

(… I’m taking this because? …)

On most brands of Christmas lights

“For indoor or outdoor use only.”

(as opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor

“Not to be used for the other use.”

(now, somebody out there, help me on this. I’m a bit curious.)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts

“Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts.”

(Step 3: say what?)

On a child’s Superman costume

“Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly.”

(I don’t blame the company. I blame the parents for this one.)

Blessed are the cracked: for it is they who let in the light.

Greetings, my friends!

I love this time of year in the Midwest! The season of fall engages all the senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell. The fact that ND is 4-0 as of this writing is also something to savor. But I do feel for the professional football teams and the substitute officials who have to be reeling from the wrath descending upon them. It’s all so unnecessary, too. The impasse between the NFL organization and the officials’ union is simply another sign of the chaos that comes when intransigence takes the place of compromise.

Speaking of intransigence and chaos, this will be my last newsletter before the November elections. It’s pretty rare that we’re given such a stark choice between ideologies. Notice I do not say “choice between persons.” Even though many do vote for the person, in this case I feel it would be doing an injustice to the country. Both men are good people, loving husbands and fathers, faithful to their religious beliefs. But how do the policies they espouse affect the common good? Yes, your vote does have an effect on the country and the world … that’s why voting is a moral obligation.

I would highly recommend reading the commentary of the American Bishops on this election and the priorities we are asked to think about. There are seven: the right to life and the dignity of the human person; the call to family, community and participation; a section on rights and responsibilities (we so often forget the latter!); the option for the poor and vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; and finally, caring for God’s creation. All of these have been hot button issues the last few years and the political parties and candidates have very different approaches to them – approaches which call on us to see voting as making a moral choice according to our informed consciences. And speaking of informed – lordy lordy – how I hate those political commercials! How stupid do they think we are!? Ditto for most of the stump speeches!

Anyway, the Bishops document is called “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” and the website is www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship. The document does not compare the two parties side-by-side; it simply states what the Church believes and invites us to make the necessary comparisons.

Two Holy Cross deaths to report. On August 28, Rev. Thomas Campbell, C.S.C., was called home to God. Tom taught theology at Stonehill College and King’s College. While teaching, he assisted in local parishes. Upon retirement from his teaching ministry, he began to work full-time in various parishes in the Diocese of Fall River (Mass.) until retirement at Holy Cross House in 2011.

On Sept. 11, the birth into eternal life happened for Rev. David Verhalen, C.S.C. Most of David’s career was spent in high school education and chaplaincy. David had a deep desire for solitude and contemplation as well and he shared the fruits of that solitude with students and all who sought him for spiritual advice. He moved to Holy Cross House in 2010.

By way of reminder, come Nov. 1, it will be 55 days till Christmas. Have you done your shopping yet?

Be God’s smile for someone today!
Who are the Greatest Among Us?

O

In the workplace whom do we regard as first? Who is the one who serves the family? Parents? Children? Domestic help? Grandparents, aunts or uncles? Of course, if the family pet happens to be a cat, there’s no doubt whatsoever: Everyone exists solely to serve Tabby!!

When I was in the Seminary, I spent a summer as an orderly in a hospital in New Bedford, Mass. As part of our training, a hospital administrator talked about the various departments. I’ll never forget his ad- 

mamant statement that he considered the housekeepers to be the single most important group of people in the organization because it was their work that did much to prevent the spread of contaminants. While planning 

in the construction of the new Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka (next door to South Bend), the consultation process focused heavily on the housekeepers. Several very clever ideas came from this group of people.

There’s plenty to think about in the paragraphs above. But let me just add one more thought: More and more, I’m starting to take the view that the folks who are the greatest are the ones who most need our help. This holds true on every level: from the home to the nation, and at every age, from infant to centenarian. Sometimes they will ask for help. At other times, pride or disability keeps them from asking for help, but commonly, this is what help is needed and we step in. Often the need for help is obvious, as with an infant or a severely handicapped person. Our greatness comes to the fore in whether or not we choose to help them, and whether or not we help them according to their real need (good!), or what we think they need (not so good!).

Why are they the greatest? Because they are helping you and I live out the Gospel. They are helping our nation be a Christian nation, as we so often claim to be. Our own personal suffering calls for a response of faith. Witnessing the suffering of others calls forth a response of charity. It will require your time and ef- 

As Christians, we need to do better. And let me make a painful point: We tend to help people based upon a scale of how much we think they deserve it. So a person who has cancer is OK to help, because it isn’t their fault that they are sick. On the other hand, we look at someone who destroyed their marriage by having an affair and suddenly we want to have noth- 

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