



ST. PIUS X PARISH

16 Smithville Crescent
St. John's, NL
A1B 2V2
Tel: (709) 754-0170



E-Mail: stpiusx@nl.rogers.com
Webpage: www.spx.ca



OUR PIUS UPDATE
July 20, 2021



ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS



Good teachers know how to ask great questions. It’s an ancient teaching technique, dating back at least to Socrates, and one used often in the classrooms of Jesuit schools throughout the centuries.

In asking a question rather than simply stating a fact, a thoughtful teacher can invite from a student the kind of inner reflection that might ultimately lead to a new way of seeing and being in the world.

Today, Jesus asks us five questions in this Gospel from Matthew. He also dismisses three questions that many of us are prone to ask ourselves again and again, anxious and worried about tomorrow and what is yet to come.

Leaving behind these anxious questions is easier said than done. Sometimes we have good reasons to worry. But Jesus offers us, in his questions, a reassurance we can count on: God knows our worries and our needs. By asking the questions, Jesus grants us the liberty to make our own response and to seek the Kingdom of God.

—Fr. Jack Krouse, SJ, of the **Jesuits West Province** was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 2021 in Hollywood, California.

PRAYER

*Lord,
help us to focus on the right questions so that,
in their answers,
we can discern our response to you.
May we co-labor with you
to bring about your kingdom here on earth.
Amen.*

Jesuit Prayer Team

SOURCE: www.JesuitPrayer.org , June 19, 2021

THE MISSING SHOE: DEEPENING GOD'S LIFE IN ME



"Where is my stupid shoe?" I shouted at my bewildered husband.

That question burst out of my mouth far more loudly than intended on a Wednesday morning in early March. I slept through two alarms that morning and had only woken up maybe 20 minutes before the rest of my family. In other words, I was late before I started. I rushed through making breakfast, getting backpacks ready, and organizing what I needed for work. Still, all things considered, I got dressed pretty fast. I even managed to get my makeup on and my hair done. The kids actually got to the car and buckled in without arguing, right on time. But just as I was going to get in the car myself, I couldn't find my shoe.

"Unbelievable!" I shouted upwards to God. *"Today is a busy morning! I am leading presentations all day, and I have to be on time to prepare them! Where in the world is my shoe?"*—as if God would miraculously find it for me, especially after I yelled.

I searched high and low, under beds and behind dressers. I went to the car and then back into the house, probably slamming a few doors as I went. I know, it's just a shoe! And yes, I had several other pairs I easily could have grabbed. But at that moment, that shoe seemed like the biggest problem in the world.

And then, just as I was at the height of my frantic search, my phone buzzed. *"Your child's school is cancelled today due to the coronavirus. More information to follow."*

Suddenly, the shoe didn't matter anymore. Suddenly, I had no idea what to do or what to feel. In that instant, everything changed.

That moment was almost two months ago now, but I think back to it often. In the ***First Principle and Foundation, St. Ignatius*** had warned me about the shoe. He told me not to let any created thing get in the way of developing my relationship with God. And yet, I had. In fact, the shoe and many created things like it had gotten in the way for a very long time.

If I have learned anything in these last two months, I hope it is this: Ignatius was right. *“Our only desire and our one choice should be this: I want and I choose what better leads to God’s deepening his life in me” (Fleming translation).*

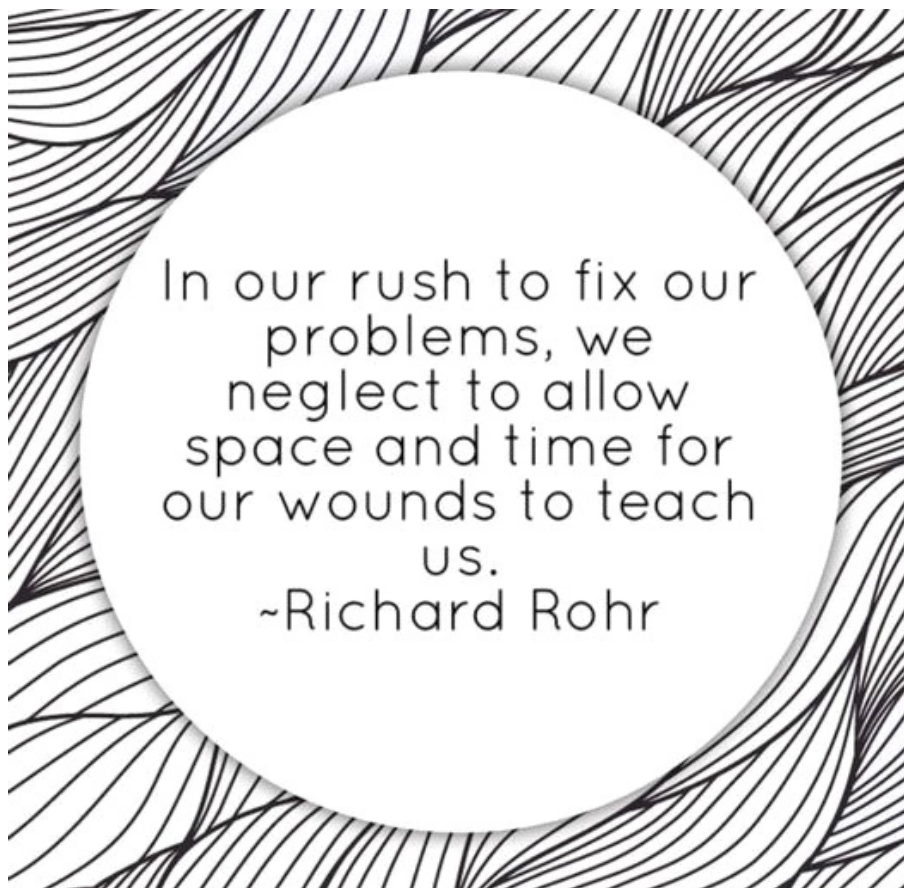
And that is definitely not getting frantic about a missing shoe.

Instead, deepening God’s life in me means:

- Spending quality time with my, who are a daily sign of God’s presence in my life;
- Taking some time in prayer with God before I get out of bed in the morning, asking for God’s grace before my feet hit the floor;
- Having more compassion for myself and others as we navigate this strange new world.

Above all, it means remembering that details like lost shoes will work themselves out if I place God first and trust in God’s plan for me.

SOURCE: Gretchen Crowder www.ignatianspirituality.com



SAINT MARIA GORETTI (October 16, 1890 - July 6, 1902)



Maria hadn't turned twelve yet when a nineteen year old man with whom she and her family shared a house came after her with a knife with rape on his mind. He stabbed her fourteen times. On her deathbed, Maria's words were "Through love of Jesus, I forgive him with all my heart". Her murderer had a conversion experience in prison and upon his release spent his life as a monastery gardener.

Anyone can have a conversion experience - convicted murderers, pediphiles, corrupt politicians, gossiping neighbours, backstabbing co-workers. We're not called to be foolish and irresponsible about putting ourselves in dangerous situations. But like Maria, we must strive to forgive all, just as God does. Our actions and words, big or small, could help or hinder someone with a mustard seed's worth of faith. Which will it be?

CHALLENGE

Have a prayerful conversation with God about where you can sow some seeds of conversion. It may be in your life!

