

A LOVE MESSAGE FROM HUSBANDS TO WIVES

This true story reminds me of my best childhood friend Tom from Rockhurst High School, Kansas City, Missouri. But this is about Tom Anderson of Bernardsville, New Jersey, who rented an ocean cottage for a two-week vacation.

Before driving to the beach with his wife, Tom made a solemn promise to himself that for the next two weeks, he would be the kind of husband that he could and should be and so he began.

For two weeks, he made no phone calls to his office. For two weeks he held his tongue when tempted to say something unkind. For two weeks he was thoughtful. For two weeks he was loving and caring.

Only one thing went wrong on that vacation. And that happened on the last night. Tom caught his wife staring at him with a deeply concerned expression on her face. He looked at her and said, "Honey, what in the world is wrong?"

Tears rolled down her cheeks as she said, "Do you know something I don't know?" "What do you mean?" he responded. "Well," she said, "last week I went to the doctor for a checkup. You've been so kind to me, Tom. Tell me the truth. Did he tell you something about me? Did he say I had cancer? Did he say I'm going to die? Is that why you've been so good to me, Tom?"

It took a full minute for her remarks to sink in. Then Tom broke into a laugh. Throwing his arms around his wife, he said, "No, honey, you're not going to die. It's just that I'm just starting to live."

That story dramatizes Jesus' message to us. He's urging us to start living. He's urging us to stop putting things off. He's urging us to be on our guard against letting our life slip away without doing what we should be doing. My teenage granddaughter, Anna, wears this message on her Nike sweat pants, "Just do it." What it says to me is that the Lord is calling us to do it now before it's too late.

More specifically, Jesus is urging us to approach this Advent the way Tom Anderson approached his vacation. He's urging us to use it as an opportunity to begin living as we should. He's urging us to use it as an opportunity to love as we should. In brief, the gospel is a loving reminder from Jesus that our life is slowly slipping away. It's a loving reminder from Jesus that we should be on our guard against letting it slip away without doing the things God made us to do.

It's a loving reminder from Jesus to be more kind and loving.

Each time you remember this Advent wisdom you will know that. ...

YOU ARE LOVED,

Deacon Dan

+Thanks to Fr. Mark Link