

Some Inspiration from Charlie and Lucy

I normally attend 6:30 am Mass every morning. This morning, however, we had a Communion Service instead. Our deacon told us a story based on a Charlie Brown cartoon that I would like to share with you. The story goes like this:

Charlie and Lucy were standing together with Lucy in deep thought. She asked Charlie, “What is security?” After thinking for a moment, Charlie answered, “It is falling asleep in the back seat of the car. You can lay there and sleep knowing that your parents are in the front of the car. They are the ones who have the worries of life that you don’t have to be concerned with – you can simply sleep.” Lucy thought that was very profound; but, then Charlie continued: “Then you grow up and all of the worries of life start to pile up and make you anxious – your parents are not there to take care of everything for you. Things are not so secure anymore.” Lucy pondered, looked at Charlie, reached over and grabbed his hand. They stood there, deep in thought, holding each other’s hands.

Picture in your mind that last sentence. What does that say to you? To me it represents the first phrase in our National Identity Statement: “Inspired by Gospel values...” This is what our ministry is about. We need to be present for each other. The hand holding represents the support and security we provide for each other and that comes from the values we have grown up with inspired by the Gospels.

God did not create human beings to be totally on our own, living away from others, never interacting, never communicating, never relying on or supporting others. He created us to interact, to communicate, to support when times get rough, to depend on for help when times get tough, to hold each other’s hands, and to give comfort in times of stress and anxiety. He created us to be there for each other.

In the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, we are in a unique position because people come to us every day. They come to us when they are in crisis. Loss, stress, and anxiety have momentarily filled their lives and they do not know where to turn. It is up to us to listen to their cries, their longings, and their confusion. It is up to us to tell them we are here for them. It is up to us to tell them God has heard their cries and has sent us to do what we can to give them relief from what the world has thrown at them. It is up to us to hold their hands and tell them that God loves them.

It would be great if we could give to them the feeling that Charlie Brown had in the backseat of the family car – the hope and comfort to know that our Father has things under control. That is true security. And that can only come through God.

Now, picture once again that scene with Charlie and Lucy and just change the characters to person you want to help and our Lord Jesus. This is God’s will, let it be done.