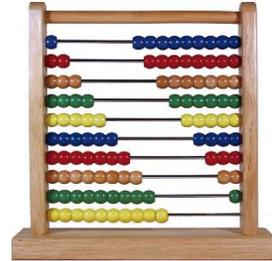


**Coop's Scoops # 74 : Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>**

Yes, dear friends, you are right. I am wrong. So today we are back on track number wise, not in the 80's at all, just the 70's. That's okay, because then I get to celebrate 80 again next week.

I have purchased a super **high tec** gadget to help me count! Whatever will they think of next?  
(psst...it's called an abacus...might be a few left)



**I have a special request of you.** I am asking that even if you've never read a single one of my other homilies, you take the chance and read this one today. It is dedicated to Robert Knighton and a little nine year old boy. And it is about how I was utterly transformed by having a "fly in my hair". Hope that sounds intriguing!

And if you do read it, and it changes something in you, would you please let me know. You don't have to tell me what or how, although you can if you want to. It would never be repeated to anyone. You can just say "Yes", and that would be fine. It's important to me and it is fruit from 20 years ago that needs to be pressed into new wine in my soul. THANKS!

**News from the Parish:**

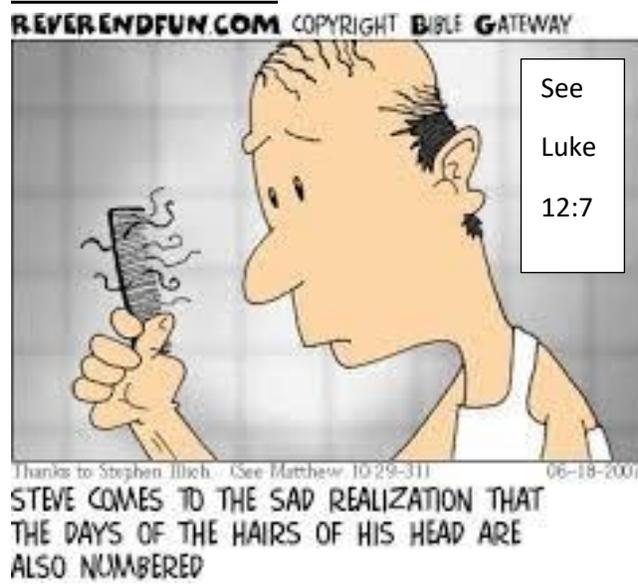
The Forward Day By Day booklets for August through October have arrived. They will be in a box on the bench outside the front door. Please be welcome to pick up, or two if needed. If you really, really want to pay for it, you can put a dollar in an envelop and put the envelope through the mail slot in the door. I will happily collect and set aside for that purpose.

There will be a live-stream video from the cemetery at St. James, Port Cunnington on the Feast of St. James day, July 25<sup>th</sup>. It will be shown on the Deanery Facebook page and the Deanery Web Site. A team of five will be offering the service which is intended to remember, to bless, and honour family members who are interred in that beautiful cemetery. There will be no "congregation" as indoor and outdoor public worship gatherings are not permissible, but it is hoped that many people,

especially summer visitors who have not been able to come to Muskoka this year, will be blessed by knowing that their loved ones are not forgotten. Mark your calendars. Folks from Lake of Bays Parish; St. Ambrose, St. Mary Magdalene, St James and St. John's are especially invited to participate on screen. A second live stream Morning Prayer service will be offered in August.

Meanwhile remember there are many excellent worship services being offered on-line, including those of Archbishop +Anne at St. Luke's Cathedral website and Archdeacon Kelly on the All Saint's Web Site/ Deanery Facebook page.

### **Here's some Fun:**



**James Avery** is a teacher who contributed this to Reader's Digest "One day one of my third graders was wearing a fit bit" "Oh, that's great', I said to her," do you use that to count your steps every day?" She said " Oh no, I wear it for Mommy so she can show Daddy her steps every night. And she wins all the time."

### **Scripture for Today:**

Matthew 7: 1-3

**Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why**

**do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?"**

Now, that Scripture about judging may sound pretty judgmental of me. Actually, I chose it because Rob Knighton wrote an article for a Facebook post that reminded me of how a 9 year old boy with Tourette's syndrome once taught me one of the biggest and best lessons of my life. I dedicate this little homily to Rob and to the young boy at St. James the Apostle in Port Carling. Noni, YOU will remember this for sure, and others from early ministry may as well.

I had noticed a young fellow with his grandma who was doing a fair bit of hand flapping and showing some tics in the morning congregation. He was a beautiful boy, and I was so glad he was comfortable being with us. Then, of course, I got into preaching what to my mind, in my very early ministry, was one of the finest sermons ever preached. Imagine my naivete! At just the most poignant, biggest lesson part of the sermon, the young boy hollered out "Lady, lady, there's a fly in your hair!" And there was. So I shoed it away and started my awesome point again. And wouldn't you know ...."Lady, lady there's a fly in your hair" came sailing across the wind again. Shoo Shoo. Getting frustrated, I tried to carry on and there was a third "Lady, Lady, THERE IS A FLY IN YOUR HAIR!". The Spirit made me pause. And pause again. And I realized that right then in that moment God was telling me that there was a very big Log in my Eye, a big Brick of egotism ruling my mouth, and a big ice cube in my heart that should have been caring only for the parishioners, not for my own reputation or ability. Message received, I stopped the sermon I had been giving entirely, and spoke about two dangers: the danger of thinking **too highly** of ourselves (mea culpa) and the danger of thinking **too lowly** of ourselves (mea culpa also more than you'd think). When we are full of ourselves, and think we've got everything right, we need to have memorized Isaiah 55: 8-9 **"For my thoughts are not your thoughts,**

**neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>**"As the heavens are higher than the earth,**

**so are my ways higher than your ways**

**and my thoughts than your thoughts.** There is no time ever for us to get cocky with God or put ourselves on any throne.

And when we think we are nothing, lower than a snake's belly in a wagon rut in January, we need to have our memory retrieve **"But to those who believed, He gave the power to become the sons and daughters of God.** We need to retrieve Romans 3: 23-24 **"All have sinned and come short of the glory of God, but the gift of God is eternal life"**. We need to always have John Romans 15:9 **" Just as the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Abide in My love"**.

Those verses are my spiritual touchstones that keep me real, no matter how exalted or demoted I may be, or I may feel. I hope they may help you as well.

It all began with a little boy in Port Carling and Robert Knighton reminded me of that today. THANK YOU! -Judie+

**Prayer for today:**

Help us always, O Lord, to see ourselves as You see us, and to conduct ourselves with humility and with courage. We praise and bless you, Lord, for pronouncing to "be" now what we are in the process of "becoming"...holy, blameless sons and daughters of God the Father Almighty, by grace and by transformation through faith and obedience. You are worthy to be praised at all times, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

**Blessing:**

From the rising up of the sun, to the going down of the same, of thy goodness give us with thy love inspire us, by thy Spirit guide us, by thy power protect us, and in thy mercy, receive us, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon us all, this day and for ever. Amen. -Judie+