



Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

Two familiar sayings have taken on new meaning for me over the last two years. One is "Life is what happens while you are making plans." The other is "If you want to make God laugh, tell God your plans."

The pandemic has thrown a major wrench into most everybody's plans. I was elected Provincial of my community shortly before Covid hit. Covid totally changed what I thought being Provincial was going to be like, including lengthening the time I would be in this role. Also during this time, the two American provinces of my community had planned on implementing a process of becoming one province. Needless to say, that plan quickly went by the wayside. A new, less satisfying and less effective process had to be adopted, much to the dislike of many community members. At times I have felt discouraged and disheartened because things have not gone the way they "should" have.

But then I stop and think "How 'should' things be? Who makes that determination?" We often think we're the ones who know best. We think things would go much better if we called the shots. But of course, that comes from our illusion that we know it all and that we are in control. That is especially when God laughs.

Life events can definitely change our plans, but our purpose and goal remains the same, regardless of what life throws at us. Whatever the situation, we are to do the best we can with what we've got, in the most loving way possible. Nothing can change that purpose, or prevent us from fulfilling that purpose. If we want, we can make that our anchor in this topsy-turvy world. We will find much more contentment and peace that way, rather than relying on all our plans panning out the way we expect.

~ Peace,

Fr. Garry