



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 1, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

When you are watching a movie in a theater, you probably aren't consciously aware of the screen upon which the movie is being projected. But it is there, and the movie could not be seen without it. When you look at a painting, you probably don't notice the canvas upon which the picture is painted. But it is there, and the picture could not exist without it. When you are reading from a book, you probably focus only on the printed words and the story they tell. You probably don't focus on the paper page, without which the words could not be printed and the story could not be told.

As quantum theory scientists study how things work at the subatomic level, they are theorizing that there is something that underlies everything we see, from supernovas, to planets, to trees, to microbes. On one level, you could call it space, or emptiness. After all, everything needs space in which to be or exist. But these scientists are calling this "something" Dark Matter, or Dark Energy. They theorize that this dark energy pervades everything and is everywhere, even in empty space. They say it is this invisible energy that holds everything together, and keeps atoms and molecules from spinning out of control and tearing everything apart. Some have compared dark energy to a canvas upon which everything in the universe is painted. Without it, the picture of reality could not hold together or be seen. Or like the paper pages in a book, without which the story of reality could not be written.

It strikes me that this is a pretty good description of God. We have always said that God is love, and that God is everywhere. Love is another word for relationship, or connection. It is what binds us to each other, and keeps us from flying out of control and destroying each other. Maybe what scientists are calling dark energy, the glue that is everywhere and holds everything together, is really love/God. And whenever we choose to cooperate with this uniting force, like when we recognize our connections and join together for the greater good, we are joining in the work of that life-giving force.

Maybe quantum theory and Spirituality are not that far apart in describing how things work, in describing how God works.