

What on Earth Am I Here For?

What a great question indeed! We will have the opportunity to reflect on it throughout the 40 days of Lent. This is a great opportunity that provides for our growth as community. We are hopeful that a great number of you will be able to participate in a “Faith Sharing Group” in somebody’s home, and that you will benefit in a huge way from the sharing and reflection on this pivotal question. You will also benefit from the daily work in the book which will be available to all group leaders.



The question we dealt with during Advent, “Why do I go to Church?” drew such great interest and some wonderful responses — providing some great talking points and opportunities for reflection. Below is a response from one person, and two other people told me about this episode on T.V. It is good to know that the question was also being addressed on a T.V. show — perhaps you got to see it!

—Fr. Gerry



(email received from a parishioner)

“There’s a TV comedy called ‘The Middle’ about a middle class family with three children who live in middle America (Indiana). I’ve watched it on and off for years and last week was their Christmas special so thought I’d tune in. I was quite surprised when the oldest son, Axl, asks his mother, Frankie, a familiar question. ‘Why do you go to church?’. Axl has just graduated from college and is looking for a job while living at home. Frankie had just told him the plan for Christmas Eve. The neighbors would come over and play a game and open presents, then they’d go to Services at church. Axl tells her he isn’t going. He isn’t sure he even believes anymore. He did some traveling after graduation and saw there are lots of different religions. And then he asks her ‘The Question’.

Frankie is taken aback, as if she’s not ever really thought about it. So she stammers something about her friends being there and the fact that they have really good donuts! Later in the show she comes into his room before leaving for church to tell him she has thought about his question. She tells him when things break down and they have money problems or other problems, she thinks there has to be more to life than this. And it’s good to know someone always has her back. As she turns to leave, Axl gets up and follows her, headed to church. A nice story and an honest answer from Frankie. (If you have Hulu, you should watch it. Season 9, Episode 10)

I go to church primarily to worship God. But I could do that at any church. So for me, the question is why do I go to Catholic church? My answer is because we have what no other church has. The Eucharist. Jesus fully and truly present with us. Jesus is always on my mind and always present with me. But no where more than in the Eucharist.”

