

# MUCHO QUE APRENDER

## SO MUCH TO LEARN

XXXIII ANIVERSARIO SACERDOTAL DEL PADRE JORGE A.

ROMÁN

Junio 6, 2014



Like every previous day of my priestly anniversary, I went to my appointment with God. This time I did not have to travel far to find a nice place for our meeting, since I live in paradise and beautiful places are in abundance here. The hard part was choosing which of all these places would be most appropriate.

After buying a sandwich to go at Subway, I got in my Jeep and headed towards Horseshoe Lake but shortly before reaching my destination, I thought it would be good to explore the shores of Lake Mary where I will have the retreat for boys who will receive their Confirmation.

After walking a bit, I found a suitable location on the shore of the lake with a tremendous view to the snowy mountains. I sat on a rock and I started to enjoy my food and the outlook while chatting with God. What are you going to say today, My Dear God?

"No words, just watch and enjoy my creation," He replied. So I did and I realized as every mountain, tree, bird and plant do nothing but talk about how wonderful their Creator.



I was surprised to see seagulls flying over the lake, as in Hawaii, there are no such birds that cannot fly as far and yet come to these mountains more than 500 miles from the sea. Soon, I noticed a blue bird flew on a coyote who followed wherever it was heading making noise as announcing the passage of canine that went to the shore of the lake to drink water and then approached me with reverent curiosity. For a moment I was Snow White and St. Francis of Assisi. But the footsteps of another camper, made him flee.

From there I went to Lake George and climbed a hill to Crystal Lake. Back at Lake George, I sat on the bank and while I smoked a cigarette, I asked God what he wanted to say to me on this day. And he responded to me that today he will not say anything in particular, just enjoy his company and the wonders of Creation spoke for themselves. What he had to say, he had said through Güila, my kitten.

She has taught you much including how to treat her. She has made up games, told you she wants petting or just sleep, plays hide and seek and likes to discover new hiding places, either in the closet or under your bed quilt. She has won the affection of all who come to the rectory and they give her expensive or sophisticated toys which she despises because she is happiest with the wire from the bread bag or to be wrapped in a clear plastic bag.



Yes, but she is also an ungrateful kitty who does not appreciate some things. I give of my own food for her to try and she just sniffs it suspiciously and walks away from it without even tasting it. I buy her canned cat food and she leaves it on her plate without a taste. She'll simply eat kibble.

"That is the point I was getting at" I was told by God. "You give what you think is good, but not what she appreciates or simply does not want, even if it's very tasty for you. The same goes for your parishioners."

You came as pastor to give them the best, but many of them do not know to digest this, even if you think it's very good and tasty, it is not the food they need. But they do need for you to give them something to eat. Your cat does not understand either English or Spanish and although you meow to her, she responds with a meow of her own, and yet you do not understand, but that much I do know and you want to respond with affection, even though she'll bite first then lick.

I think I get it, God. It comes down to not feeding my flock my way and as I think is best, but according to what they need. Your Divine Word communicates your Immense Love and while I strive to improve my English, I need to make them to understand through actions that You love them through me and that I love them the same even if they don't understand me.

I still have much to learn, these are new challenges and new ideals, but though they may seem more difficult, I am not afraid if you're with me. "Mitor in Arduoua" (I throw myself into the difficult challenges).

Once again, as i did 33 years ago, I renew my promise:

HERE I AM LORD, TO DO YOUR WILL.  
AND LET ME BLOOM WHERE YOU PLANT ME.

Fr. Jorge A. Román.  
June 6, 2014  
Mammoth Lakes, CA

