

He was cute as a button. Probably 5-years old. His energy knew no limits. He was riding his leg-powered scooter back and forth. At one point, he asked: "What's your name?" "Kevin. What's yours?" "Frank. I want to change it to 'Superman', but my parents won't let me." And off he sped.

Today's readings include "The Unexpected."

In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from the Book of Wisdom, we learn that God may be different than what some of us were taught: God as Judge. God as the Great Record-Keeper. God who knows when we've been naughty or nice. The author states "The Unexpected": God cares for all people. God is lenient toward all. God is full of clemency. God is kind.

It was the annual celebration at the Cathedral for those married 25 or 50 years. The Bishop had singled out a Golden Jubilarian, Luigi, asking him to take a few minutes to come to the microphone and share some insight into how he managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Luigi said to the congregation, "Well, I've tried to treat her well, spend money on her, but best of all, is that I took her to Italy for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary." The bishop immediately commented, "Luigi, you are an amazing inspiration to the husbands here. Now please tell the people what you are planning for your wife for your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary." Luigi proudly replied, "I'm going to go back to Italy and get her."

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading Paul shares "The Unexpected" with us about prayer. We aren't on our own when we pray. When we aren't sure of how to pray or what to say to God we have help. The Holy Spirit comes to our assistance. We can't imagine how many prayers we have prayed in which the Spirit interceded on our behalf.

A woman writes: "My husband and I divorced over religious differences. He thought he was God and I didn't."

In the Gospel parable, Jesus relates how both the good seed and the weeds be allowed to grow together. This is surprising and unexpected. We want the weeds to be immediately destroyed. That's not the way in God's kingdom. Both are allowed space to grow and become what they truly are. Jesus continues to preach "The Unexpected" about God and about God's kingdom.

My sisters and brothers: This week be open to "The Unexpected." Discover God's presence amid the surprising and unpredictable events that unfold before us.

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."