

Extracted from St John Vianney October 26, 2008 Bulletin

Lost of a love one

OK it may not be what you think but we sure do get attached to our material things. I recently lost one, my beloved RAV4. My faithful vehicle for the last seven plus years and 146K miles. This vehicle until this past year was my faithful office on wheels as I tried to put bread on the table. I literally bought this vehicle over a weekend after somebody had to prove they had the right of way, they didn't, and wrecked my previous vehicle that I hated. Before leaving my store that afternoon I had commented that I hope someone wrecks this vehicle so I can get a new one. Watch out what you ask for!! Luckily I was alright and found this small SUV to be perfect for what I needed it for. The only two continuous weeks I took off in the past seven years is when this vehicle drove my family to New York along with a trailer for us so we could camp out the whole way.

I have debated about resurrecting this vehicle but had to do a little soul searching that I was not doing this out of sentimental reasons. The most ironic part of this all was that they believe the on board computer lied to the transmission therefore taking it out. What, my computer chip is a traitor!!! Computers is what I do for a living. More computers have been in the back of this vehicle than I can count. Was it a conspiracy?? Were the computer chips communicating? Did I transport a bad PC that planted the seed of doubt in my RAV4 computer to do it job correctly? Was the RAV4 chip envious that I never spent time with it? I hate to admit it but I do not even know where it resides in the vehicle. I never even sent it a single good thought. No wonder it quit. It must have felt lonely and neglected.

Do we affect our computer equipments?? Absolutely. I got an emergency call once from a client. Fax machine down, internet messing up, PCs won't run. They were going to lose thousands if they didn't get this report produced and faxed off. I walked into that office and you could have sliced the tension with a knife. I was looking for someone to go postal. I took the boss outside and calmed him down. I never touch a PC or fax and they all started working again. Mmm maybe I should become the computer whisperer. I should have charge double for that call.

I sure by now you are saying, wait we shouldn't be attached to our material things. They are just machines and can't be influence. Bull, they can somehow react to our emotions. Send your PC hateful thoughts and it will not cooperate.

Over the weekend I pick up a 1995 Ford Ranger with 272K miles. I figured any vehicle that has been this faithful to its owner must be one of these faithful machines that will stand by me for a while. I am sure somewhere in this vehicle is a computer chip and I will be sure and send it some good thoughts. I hope my RAV4 knows it will not be forgotten. I may someday bring it back to life. It will be parked out back and hopefully I will have time to be with it once in a while. I was going to give it a respectable burial in the back yard but for some reason my wife is not too keen on this. Go figure. Anyone out there for helping me dig an eight-foot hole?

If not us, our kids, will find these machines getting smarter and smarter and reacting to our moods. So the next time you are spending time with your PC or your vehicle be sure and tell it how much you appreciate it. As with us, as with machine, the next generations are going to be smarter and more complicated. There is very little we can do in this day and age to avoid the machines so we better learn to get along. Mmm sounds like how we should treat our fellow man.

Among the many questions I like to ask Jesus when I meet him is, did he or that other one create the industrial revolution. Are they here to serve us or will we end up serving them? I haven't decided yet but I know I am going to do my best to treat them as I do my neighbors.

So go forth and love your fellow man but don't forget those faithful machines that serve us, at least for now. Good PC, Nice PC, thank you for working with me to produce this bulletin.
God Bless!!