

Turkey Fever by Carl E Beyer

The economy strikes again. My brother-in-law worked a double shift and was unable to make that great pepper turkey I have been drooling over. Sometime life is so hard but I did my homework and inquired about who was bringing the turkey to Grandma. Found out the answer, to my horror, was no one. What! A Thanksgiving without turkey. I shudder at the thought. So off I go at 5PM to go buy a turkey on Thanksgiving eve. Well a turkey is no problem but they are all frozen. I know all you good cooks realize the horror of a frozen turkey the night before you want to cook it. So off the 20lbs turkey goes to try and thaw in a sink full of water. I waited till about 1AM to try and get those unwanted parts out but found myself in hot water, literally, and a wrestling match to get them out. Does anyone know why they bother sticking that turkey neck where they do? I won the match and place it in the oven with a note to my wife for starting the oven up at 6AM. About 10AM I check it to see the progress and it was not looking good. In order to make Grandma's we needed to leave at 11:00 but it was still not cooked. Cranked the heat and 11:30 still a no go. Did I mention that in all this worry I manage to make myself sick and wasn't going to make Grandma's but thought I would still be able to send a turkey their way. But I guess it wasn't meant to be. About 2:30PM it was finally done so we changed plans. The wife and kids were able to go to Grandma's but we decided also to have our own dinner because my girl boyfriend mom was working and they weren't going to have dinner. We invited my girl boyfriend and his dad and had a very nice turkey dinner at home. So in the end our persistent won over the troubled turkey. There is one thought I have about when I am able to meet my maker; how much I will miss the pleasure of eating? Turkey fever strikes again.

We start the advent season this weekend and I wonder how many of us know the meaning of this season. Not being a baby Catholic I find myself interested in why we do what we do. The basic theme is "Preparing for the Coming of the Lord." This theme spells out what our basic requirement is. As when we have special guests coming for an event we get our house in order. Who among us would think of having guests over to a messy house with ourselves dressed in shorts and a tatter tee-shirt. So it is when we are expecting the coming of the Lord at Christmas that we should get our house in order. Not our house literally but our spiritual house. With our daily routines it is easy to forget to give our lord the time he deserves. I know personally I found it much easier when the kids were young to remember our nightly prayers but now with teenagers' daily routines it is harder to keep. But that is no excuse and it will be my personal commitment to at the end of the day be sure and thank the Lord for my many blessings by saying nightly prayers.

I have a sister who I will lose in the far too soon future and to forget and ask the Lord to watch over her with my nightly prayers is just not right. My sister even with her encroaching meeting with the Lord has been blessed. She had asked the Lord to give her enough time to see her daughter graduate and that happened this pass June. I have wondered that without this illness if she would have sought out the Lord or continued on the path she was on. I have never heard her say "Why me", why do I have to have a disease that has only affected about 1000 people in the United States. No, she continues on living as best she can and looking forward to meeting the Lord. She found a church that supports hers and bless her with their love. Whenever I call her she is always cheerful and upbeat. Before I make her a saint, she has her bad days but overcomes them. My sister was big and enjoyed eating. Must run in the family. The latest strike was pancreas cancer which denies her that pleasure of eating but she took pleasure in the fact that she dropped a tremendous amount of weight. So any prayers for my sister Joanne would be much appreciated.

For some reason I just looked over at my bible and realized it is a little too dusty so I will need to make the commitment to read it more often. I remember when my father-in-law passed away the priest commented on when he entered the house it was easily seen that he had entered a Catholic home. So maybe we do need to get some of our houses in order. Personally, I would think if any Catholic could not find a picture of Jesus and a bible within 5 seconds, I wonder where their commitment is. Oops maybe too judgmental there. But look around and ensure you are ready for the Lord's coming.

Enough rambling, go forth and prepare for the coming of the Lord. God Bless you all.