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I don’t know if you’ve ever been to Paris, but years ago I was lucky enough to do so. My best friend and I traveled to the city by train. Neither of us knew French except for, “Parlez-vous anglais?” (“Do you speak English?”) Mind you, if you ask a French person this question, they’ll look at with disgust, release a “pfft!” at you, and tell you, “No!” (if they answer at all.) When we got off the train we figured we’d take the Metro (the subway) to all the various tourist spots and see as much as we could in our one day in the city. The problem was that without knowing French, we could neither communicate with others nor could we read any of the signage. Since we could not figure out how to find a Metro station, we set out on foot. In accepting our fate, we made a plan to visit a triangle of sites. We figured we could get to these 3 places in the time we had.

Our first stop was going to be the Arc de Triomphe. We were utterly amazed when we reached the site. While the structure itself is quite awesome (I love seeing things in person that I’ve previously only seen in pictures!) what really intrigued us was the traffic. It was chaos!!! (Search “Arc de Triomphe traffic” on YouTube to see for yourself! I also suggest looking up “Hanoi Vietnam traffic.)The Arc de Triomphe sits in the middle of a roundabout. This particular intersection is a hub where 12 different streets converge! I don’t even think understanding French would have helped us navigate this intersection. There aren’t any lines painted on the road to indicate lanes. There are no traffic lights or policemen directing cars in any way. It’s like there are no rules for how to pilot this traffic circle. I guess you just keep going around and around until you work your way in or out to the road where you need to turn.

So what does this have to do with Faith Formation? Well, life can be as chaotic as this traffic circle. But we do have some assistance to help us through. We have the 10 Commandments. These rules are not constraints which burden us. Rather, they are parameters to live within. Knowing which direction the traffic moves, understanding how vehicles can indicate their intention to move to one side or another, and comprehending the results of not showing patience and going around again are important components of traversing this crossroads in Paris. Likewise, knowing that God wants us to desire an eternity with Him, understanding the expectations He has of us, and comprehending how our decisions affect our ultimate perpetuity are important components of traversing this life. It’s almost like the 10 Commandments are God’s version of GPS!

We meet weekly for Faith Formation right after the 11 am Mass. With that said, please note that instead of having Faith Formation class this Sunday, February 9th, we will be hosting training on how to use our new AEDs. The First Communion class will still meet from 4-6 pm. We will also have our other regularly scheduled classes on February 16th- A Family of Faith Potluck & Follow-Up meeting and February 23rd- GIFT. I hope to see you there.

Blessings,

Julie Gould

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