



Deacon Deliberations by Deacon Gary Kupsak



“Another Day to Celebrate”

You may have not seen this coming, but next Saturday (June 16, 2018) we can celebrate, “World Juggling Day.” Swirling and looping, rising and falling, the juggler’s tools (pins, rings, plates, balls, knives and hatchets - to mention a few) fly through the air, with uncanny accuracy. World Juggling Day recognizes the amazing feats of dexterity and skill required by this demanding art form. World Juggling Day was established by the International Jugglers’ Association and is dedicated to preserving and spreading the history of the art of juggling. Juggling, as an art form, is far older than most people acknowledge, going back well over 4,000 years. The first evidence of juggling as an art form goes back to the wall of a tomb in Egypt where a group of women are depicted dancing and juggling with up to three balls. From there on, evidence of juggling can be found in Greece, the Roman Empire on into Medieval Europe and certainly to modern day. The International Jugglers’ Association was formed in 1947 and in the mid 1980’s “World Juggling Day” was established.

Right about now you may be thinking to yourself, “What in the heavens does ‘World Juggling Day’ have to do with our being disciples of Christ or trying to live our lives in Jesus’ image.” I’m glad you asked! Aren’t we all jugglers of a sort? Even though most of us have never had a juggling lesson and consulted a single “self-help” book on the matter. Don’t we each day juggle (fit in to our lives) the many aspects of living that have to be attended to every day, week, month or year. Aren’t we always doing some kind of juggling? We’re juggling when we try to figure out how we’re going to pay our bills, how we’re going to get a promotion at work, how we’ll improve our relationships with our spouse and children, how we’ll take care of our aging parents, and a very serious juggling routine; HOW WE WILL GROW OUR FAITH? Yes, we are jugglers in real, everyday life. Balancing, throw-ing, catching, moving, trying not to drop anything we’re juggling or balancing.

For myself, the “Faith” ball that we juggle is the one that I’m most familiar with. How many times have we (I know I have) opted to pay more attention to juggling some of the things that are more pressing in our everyday lives. How many times do we fall into the trap of dealing with (juggling) the issues that are right in front of us, letting the “Faith” ring fall until we have more time to pay attention to it. Have we ever heard, “Yes, I intend to devote more time to a ministry at the church when the kids get older?” Or, “I can spend more time involved in church activities when get my long overdue promotion,” or “There are just too many balls for me to juggle at this time, I’ll get back to church more regularly when things calm down”

Friends, help celebrate “World Juggling Day” next Saturday by thinking about all the jugglers in the world, especially those jugglers of life’s expectation who are able to make their “Faith,” one of the most important juggles of their lives.

Happy Juggling My Friends, Happy Juggling.