

As we sat in Mass this past weekend, two of the youngest in the crowd, I couldn't help but feel youthful. We now go to a church where the average age is around 75; I estimated there were 400+ years sitting in our pew! But you wouldn't know it by how they interact. They greet each other with humor, tossing around lines like, "How are you?" "Well, I'm alive!" or "How are you feeling?" followed by, "I woke up with a bad knee." Then someone chimes in, "Oh, I know her; I have two!" They may be old, and some are a bit frail, but their spirits are so vibrant. They talk about plans for get-togethers, outings, and pickleball games. And sure, their ailments are visible (although some could probably kick my butt in pickleball!), but what stands out most to me is their evident zest for life, no matter what challenges come their way.

I think about everything these parishioners have experienced—wars, economic struggles, social upheaval, and a pandemic. I also realize that they've certainly weathered a range of administrations. And with the current political craziness around us, their lighthearted conversations remind me that life is about so much more than just politics. As Victor Hugo wisely said, "Remember, there are no weeds and no worthless men, only bad farmers." Looking ahead to next week, may the Lord guide the soon-to be elected farmers. That's all I'll say about that!

More importantly, these *Viejos* (a term I use with affection) remind me that while the world can be chaotic, the sun still rises and sets, and life goes on. Their resilience teaches us a valuable lesson: In this crazy world of ours, it's the bonds we create and the laughter we share that truly keep us going. This inspires me and gives me hope that when I reach their age (God-willing), I'll embrace life with the same spirit. I really hope so. I pray so.

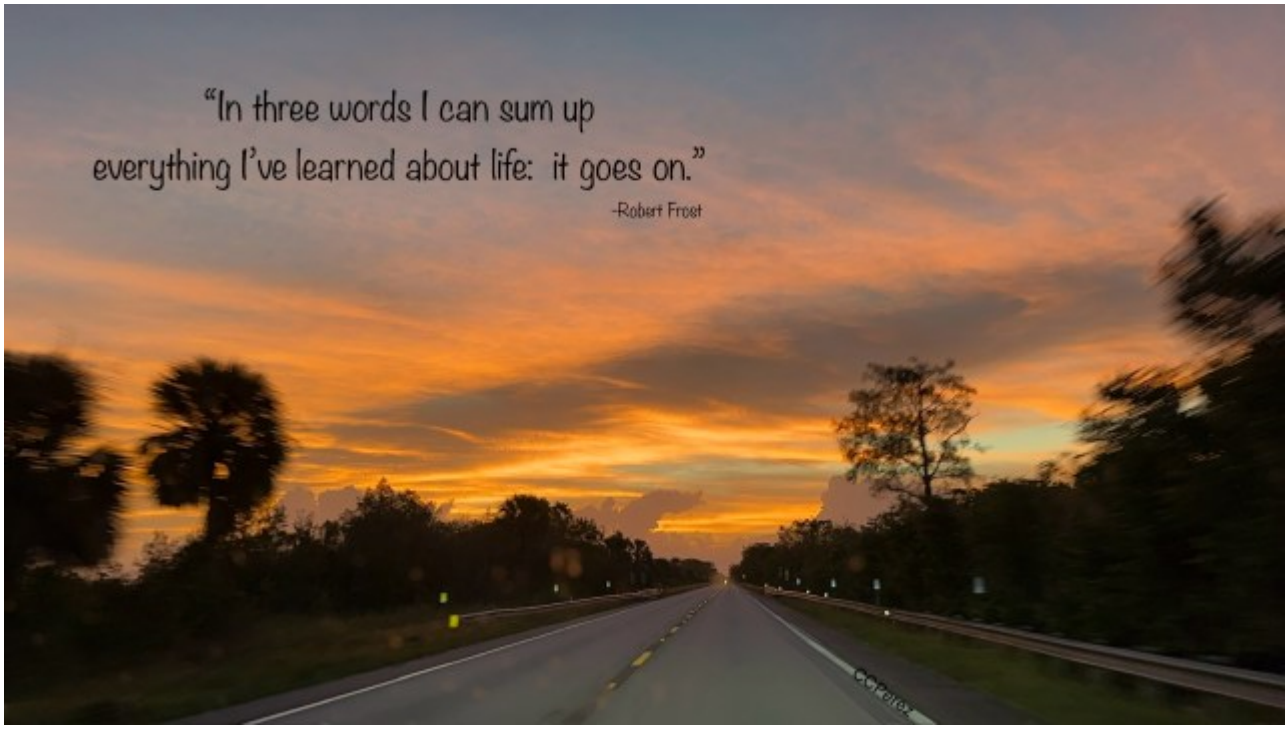
For this lesson, I am grateful. What are you thankful for today?

Until next Thursday´s post…si Dios quiere.

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."

-S. Levenson

“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”
–Abraham Lincoln



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