21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entanglement. Like a balled up skein of thread or a fishing line wrapped around a drowned tire. You know what I mean.

Scientists have a notion of entanglement too. Take two atoms and wrap them around each other. Then it happens that they become un-entangled. Their parts fly away from each other. Is that the end of their relationship of these parts? Oh-no. If one is colored red, the other is colored green. If one has an up spin, the other has a downspin. Now turn the red one green. Guess what the other automatically does? The green one turns red. Or if the up spin turns down, the other turns up. No matter how close or how far away they are from each other. Time and space mean nothing to these parts. And it is faster than the speed of light.

Spooky. That is what Herr Einstein called it.

Now let science influence or understanding of theology. How can modern science help? Science provides the facts. We supply the meaning.

In the sacrament of Baptism, the Church recognizes that we are united to the Father by the Holy Spirit, all made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We who are baptized are entangled with the Trinity – with their life and their love and their energy. Now no space nor time can intervene. There can be instant communication between us and God - faster than the speed of light. That means we can’t see it but we know it happens. If it can happen in the scientific world, it surely can happen in the spiritual world.

Prayer is instantaneous. After all Jesus says the Father knows what we are to say even before we say it. All we need to do is turn our hearts towards our Father -whether it be a thought, a rosary, a Divine Mercy Chaplet, a bible reading, a prayer. Instant and real communication.

And not only with our God. We can turn our thoughts to Mary and the saints. The channel of communication and energy is opened instantly. If we are sick, if we are joyful, if we have a problem, if we need an answer, if we turn towards them, we allow their energy come to us. With their energy we can live life with grace. That’s the power of prayer with no space or time coming between us.

What of our other entanglements which by all measure is effected by time or space? Our physical relationships break apart. It could be death or a coma or a war or a trip or anything that separates one from another. Science proves that there can be instantaneous communication.

If we think of our spouse who died. The moment of our thought sets up a connection. The more we allow the other into our hearts, we are entangled – faster than the speed of light.

As an exercise, find a quiet space and think about all those who were a positive influence on who you are today. Think of them one by one. It is like an invitation to a reunion. What a party that would be.