

**Fifty Quotes on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Saint Thomas More Parish, 2014**  
**Father Don Farnan, pastor**

- 1) On doing the right thing, Mark Twain: “Always do what is right. It will please some of the people. It will astonish the rest.”
- 2) On administering a parish (or business or family), a Hollywood writer: “Never make a simple thing complicated; never make a complicated thing simple.”
- 3) On leadership, Mohandas Gandhi: “There go my people. I am their leader. I must follow them.”
- 4) On preaching at Masses, a Franciscan monk: “Only those priests who pray have the right to talk to other people about God.”
- 5) On living Christ’s message, Saint Francis of Assisi: “Preach the Gospel always—use words only if necessary.”
- 6) On priesthood today, a Chicago prelate: “I am a man in the age of women, a priest in the age of the laity, a celibate in the age of relationships—I don’t stand a chance!”
- 7) On gathering Sunday after Sunday to worship, Thomas More: “Ritual is an action that speaks to the mind and the heart, but doesn’t necessarily make literal sense. In our churches, people do not eat bread in order to feed their bodies; they do so to nourish their souls.”
- 8) On church music, Rolling Stone Magazine: “Music embraces the things and attitudes we are all about. Music is the glue that holds generations together. Through our music, ideas get communicated about personal relationships, social values, political ethics, faith and the ways we choose to conduct our lives.”
- 9) On the struggles of life, a friend from the inner city: “Any old dead body can float downstream, but it takes a live one to swim upstream. Keep swimmin’.”
- 10) On having integrity, Will Rogers: “Live so that you wouldn’t be ashamed to sell the family parrot to the town gossip.”
- 11) On the decline of morality in our society, Studs Terkel: “Moral slippage is a gradual kind of thing. It has seeped into our lives slowly so that we accept it daily now, more and more. It happens bit by bit and drop by drop. It’s a gradual kind of thing that will destroy us.”
- 12) On Catholics who like to condemn others, Father Richard Rohr: “Anyone who has read the Gospel knows that Jesus never condemned sinners. He only condemned those who don’t think they sin: the arrogant, condescending, self-promoters who like to point out the faults of others.”
- 13) On children and their future, Shel Silverstein: “Listen to the mustn’ts, child, listen to the don’ts; listen to the shouldn’ts, the impossibles, the won’ts. Listen to the never-haves, then you listen close to me: anything can happen, child, ANYTHING can be.”
- 14) On students that graduate from our schools, Peter Hans Kolvenbach, S. J.: “Our purpose is to form young men and women for others. We should imbue them with values that transcend the goals of money, fame, and success. We want to form graduates to be leaders concerned about the society in which they live. We want them to desire to eliminate hunger and conflict in the world and who are sensitive to the need for more equitable distribution of the world’s goods. We

- want graduates who seek to end discrimination of all kinds and who are eager to share their faith with others.”
- 15) On bullying, when Father Ted Hesburgh was president of Notre Dame University, a Jewish student was the target of repeated hazing incidents by a few students in his dorm. The Jewish boy had enough and went home. Hesburgh gathered the culprits and said: “Pack your bags. Go and find your friend. Either you persuade him to come back to Notre Dame or you don’t come back either.”
  - 16) On judging others, Pope Francis: “You ask if I approve of homosexuality. Let me reply with another question: Tell me, when God looks at a gay person, does He endorse the existence of this person with love or does He reject and condemn this person? We must always consider the human person. If someone is gay and searches for the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge?”
  - 17) On war and the centrality of the Cross, Pope Saint John Paul II: “War will always be a defeat for humanity...the Cross of Jesus will remain as a Sign of Contradiction.”
  - 18) On the sins of the church, Thomas Cahill: “Just as banks can make people poor, hospitals can make the sick, and schools can make them ignorant, so can churches make people evil; and our history is embarrassingly filled with examples.”
  - 19) On the urgency of seeking forgiveness, Saint Augustine: “God has promised forgiveness to your repentance; but He has not promised tomorrow to your procrastination.”
  - 20) On obedience to accept pastoral assignments, Bishop Fulton Sheen: “Obedience does not mean the execution of orders given by a drill sergeant. It springs, rather, from the love of an order and love of Him who gives it.”
  - 21) On joyfully serving others, Rabindranath Tagore: “I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and, behold, service was joy.”
  - 22) On Christian service, Marian Edelman Wright: “Service to others is the rent we pay for living. It is the very purpose of life and not something we do in our spare time.”
  - 23) On Christian charity, Peter Maurin: “There will always be enough poverty in the world to make us holy—far more than enough. Our job is simply to make it just a little easier for people to be good.”
  - 24) On Church Community Organizing, Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood: “We will never ask for what cannot be done. But we shouldn’t have to beg any politician to make our front yards safe for our children to play. We’ll only ask for what is due us as citizens. ‘Anger’ comes from a Norse word for ‘grief’. We should all grieve in our neighborhood for opportunities lost and dreams denied. If we are angry, then so be it. But as church people we should actually be madder than hell—mad at politicians who offer more lip than labor and who want to be more celebrities than servants, mad at bureaucrats who would diminish us to beggars and who turn sticky red tape into heavy red cable, mad at those who would attack our self-esteem and our basic human dignity. It must be known that Church Organizers are the fairest fighters in town.”
  - 25) On Minorities in the Church, Beverly Carroll (former USCCB secretary): “Many African-Americans relate to the church in the same way they relate to American

- society. There's a feeling that you belong but that you don't belong. The church always says the right stuff but the actions don't always follow."
- 26) On the Church in the urban core, Dr. Norman Francis: "Where the need is the greatest the church must be her strongest."
  - 27) On corporal works of mercy, Jacques Maritain: "Bread for myself is a material question; bread for my neighbor is a spiritual question."
  - 28) On stewardship, an ecclesial leader: "In this world there are Givers and Takers. Takers will sometimes eat better but Givers always sleep better."
  - 29) On generosity, F. M. Balfour: "The best thing to give your enemy is forgiveness, to an opponent tolerance, to a friend your heart, to your child a good example, to yourself respect, and to all people charity."
  - 30) On what we are becoming, Dorothy Day: "It doesn't matter where we come from or who we are. It only matters who we are becoming by the ways in which we love others."
  - 31) Advice from a child on playing church, Eileen (8 years old): "Never try to baptize a cat."
  - 32) Advice from a child on when to not speak, Michael (14 years old): "When your dad is mad and asks you: 'Do I look stupid?' don't answer him."
  - 33) On friends, old and new, Letty Pogrebin: "We need old friends to help us grow old and we need new friends to help us stay young."
  - 34) On saying 'goodbye' to loved ones, Richard Bach: "Don't be dismayed at goodbyes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again; and meeting again—after a moment or a lifetime—is certain for those who are friends."
  - 35) On living and dying, Anonymous: "First I was dying to finish high school and start college. Then I was dying to finish college so I could start working. Then I was dying to marry and raise children. Then I was dying for my children to grow old enough so that I could go back to work. But then I was dying to retire. Suddenly I realized that I forgot to live."
  - 36) On honoring our land, Chief Joseph: "The earth was created by the assistance of the sun and should be left as it was. The land was made without demarcation and it is no man's business to divide it. I see white men all over the country gaining wealth and desiring to give us lands that are worthless. The earth and myself are of one mind. The measure of the land and the measure of our bodies are the same."
  - 37) On democracy and liberty, Benjamin Franklin: "Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote."
  - 38) On being a gentleman, Cardinal John Henry Newman: "A gentleman is one who never knowingly inflicts pain on another. He avoids suspicion, gloom or resentment. He is tender toward the bashful, gentle toward the distant, merciful toward the absurd. He never speaks of himself unless compelled, has no ears for slander and has too much good sense to be affronted by insults. He submits to pain because it is inevitable, to bereavement because it is irreparable, and to death because it is his destiny."
  - 39) On becoming a saint, Nathan Soderblom: "Saints are just people who make it a little bit easier for the rest of us to believe in God."

- 40) On the presence of God, Father Tom Allender: “If your God is up in the heavens then you are far away from Him; but if God dwells in your heart, He is so very close—always.”
- 41) On the Feast of the Holy Trinity, Meister Eckhart: “When the Father laughs with the Son, and the Son laughs back with the Father, that laughter gives pleasure. That pleasure gives joy; that joy gives love; and that love is the Holy Spirit.”
- 42) On the Feast of Corpus Christi, Unknown Writer: “Either it is or it isn’t the Body and Blood of Christ. If it isn’t, then we are all fools for gathering around it and bowing down before it. But if it is, how can we remain passive to the atrocities of our world?”
- 43) On what the future may hold, G. K. Chesterton: “If you want to know where you are going, it’s important to understand where you’ve been.”
- 44) On faith and action, The Epistle of James: “Faith without action is not really faith; prayer without works is not actually prayer.”
- 45) On religion and spirituality, Father James Martin: “Religion without spirituality can become a dry list of dogmatic statements divorced from the life of the spirit. Spirituality without religion can become a self-centered complacency divorced from the wisdom of community.”
- 46) On the fine line between sanctity and insanity, Lily Tomlin: “Why is it that when we talk to God we’re said to be praying but when God talks to us we’re said to be schizophrenic?”
- 47) On what God asks of us, The Prophet Malachi: “God asks only this: that we act justly, that we love tenderly, and that we walk humbly with the Lord.”
- 48) On love and suffering, Father James Walsh: “You really haven’t loved if it hasn’t brought some suffering. And you are stupid to suffer unless it is because you love. But if you have suffered and loved rightly, you are going to be able to die singing.”
- 49) On Irish health and well-being, Alex Levine: “Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat.”
- 50) On the end of a good life, The Gospel of Luke: “The end of a good life should be like the end of a good day’s work. When you have done all that has been commanded of you to do simply say, ‘I am your servant—I have only done what you sent me here to do’.”