

CHILD HUMOR

By James Collins

In our everyday travel, we pass through crowds of people. If you pay attention, you will pick up flecks of humor in their day-to-day conversations. A good place for this is church. It's quiet. It's easier to hear the comments and the ones who are most likely to speak are the children. On two occasions, I encountered children whose conversations have stayed with me to this very day.

The first was with my granddaughter Eileen who was about five. We were in church in a pew in the middle of the aisle and she was twitchy. She moved around and jumped up and down. She would not sit still. So I leaned over and said,

"Eileen you have to be quiet and you have to sit still"

"Pop Pop I'm bored."

"Why are you bored?"

"It's the priest. He is from another country and I don't understand a word he is saying."

"He's from from Asia and I can understand your difficulty in understanding him. We are all having trouble. However, you're going to have to just sit still until the service is over. Is there anything I can do to help you stay quiet?"

"Can we talk?"

"About what?"

"About you."

"Me? What about me?"

"Your shirt."

"My shirt? What about my shirt."

"The lines."

"Oh, you're only five. You don't understand. If you have lines on your shirt which go from side to side it makes you look fat. However, if you have lines on your shirt that go up and down it makes you look thin. So Nana always buys me shirts that go up and down so I don't look fat."

"It didn't work."

The second event occurred very recently. I was in a pew in church and to my right were three young girls obviously from same family. There was a 15-year-old, a little one about three-years-old in the middle and then maybe a six-year-old next to me. The mother was on the other side of the girls in the same pew.

At the offertory, they passed the collection plate down the aisle from the far side to where I sat. Therefore, it came to the mother and then the oldest child and each of them dutifully threw some money or envelopes into the basket. As it reached the three-year-old in the middle, she very daintily reached in, took a dollar bill out of the basket, and then passed the basket to her next sister. The oldest sister on the right saw what happened and was mortified. She reached over quickly took the dollar from the little child and threw it in the basket which was already starting my wat.

“ You're not supposed to do that”, she said to her young sibling.

“You're supposed to put money into the basket not take it out.”

“When they passed it down, I thought it was like candy. When they pass it to you you're allowed to take one just one,” responded the youngest sister.”

A heartwarming response that I still remember.

Always listen carefully when there are children around. The way they see the world is fantastic and their response to events will make your day. These two events have given me amusement for years.

THE END