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Short Circuit

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

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Short Circuit

A short circuit might describe a small-size race-course for cars, but most of us immediately think of occasions when the electrical power goes off, and someone discovers that a short circuit has occurred. We have to find and resolve the electrical problem, whatever it is, before we can turn on the lights or use the microwave, or do whatever we had in mind before the short circuit or other predicament interfered with our accustomed activities.

When we are faced with a sudden problem or obstacle to our plans, we can walk away, but the problem will remain; we can do something else for a while, but the obstacle will not disappear. When a "short circuit" occurs, the way forward is to find and face whatever difficulty confronts us.

If the lights go out or the appliances cease functioning, sometimes we only need to re-set a circuit-breaker and perhaps reduce the amount of electricity being used, and all will be well: an easy solution. But without taking that step, nothing changes. In life, we also can find ourselves in situations when our normal activities are suddenly blocked in some small way, and we must either seek the source of the problem or abandon what we were doing. If someone does not show up for an appointment, we can try to contact the person, wait a bit longer, or we can change our plans and move on from there. Even in small matters, how we deal with "short circuits" is always an exercise of our spirituality: we can peacefully and directly take into account an interruption to our plans or we can focus our attention on the present inconvenience and continue to live with "the lights out."

Whether an interruption in our lives is a small nuisance or a major disruption, the longer we stay in the darkness of doubt or fear or even denial, the more difficult the resolution will seem to be and then become in fact. Whereas, the sooner we decide – and this is where even a short prayer and conscious openness to inspiration is of great help – the easier will be both our search for the answer and our putting it into action. We might have to work for a few minutes in the darkness of uncertainty while we figure out – pray over – the sudden darkness or loss of power. But as long as we do not deny that a problem exists, or ignore it, darkness and powerlessness are only temporary.

We do not have to be the spiritual equivalent of an electrician to use our heads and our hearts to look for the cause or source of hurt, anger, or frustration, and to either make the needed "repair" ourselves or seek some help. For most situations, we likely can contact someone who has had an experience of a setback similar to ours, and can suggest an appropriate

remedy. In addition, we are always welcome to privately consult with, and receive help from, the gracious God of all circuits, whether “short” or long.