



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2010

PC

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "PC" (2010). *Spiritual Essays*. 146.
<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays/146>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

PC

In many offices and homes, a PC is a common name for any kind of computer that is for personal use. At this particular time of year we can use PC for Pre-Christmas. Saturday, December 18, can be considered 6 days PC. We know, perhaps children most especially, that Christmas is not far off. What we do with the days until December 25 (or the evening of the 24th) depends upon our PC perspective.

With a consciously chosen intention and attitude, we can live PC rather than go through only a series of activities that will surely tire us, and perhaps leave us vaguely disappointed, wondering, "Is that all there is?" To engage our desires to care for others, to be present to various Christmas-related activities "from the heart," we do not need more time than we have available, but rather, we need to decide now to cease acting from unreflective compulsion. By choosing our motives, we do not allow the exchange of gifts and cards and our attendance at parties to wholly define our Christmas experience.

Children can be expected to be excited about Christmas because of gifts and also the attention they will receive at gatherings of family and friends. But they can also be drawn into a child's appreciation of care for the other persons they are going to be meeting, as exemplified by God becoming a child. Children "get it" that God loves people enough to become a little child, and can learn to look forward to the birthday of Jesus as a joyful event for everyone, as well as the anticipation of all else that they hope to experience for themselves.

Our PC preparations as adults can include checking our lists of cards and gifts, but also, checking our hearts for healthy attitudes. We want to bring love to bear on what we do, not obligation, and so we might decide before entering an emotionally laden event to determine our purpose in attending, and also the reasonable expectations we might have that are distinct from the fantasies that arise in our minds from past hurts or unfulfilled needs. We can put our present and even some of our past into perspective during our PC days by reflecting on what we are doing, and why, for whom and for what purposes, with the result that our deeper desires and finest aspirations will guide us.

Some of us might have hurts from early childhood that are associated with Christmas, and have particular needs to spend some part of our PC time to seek healing of painful memories and to make some realistic plans on how best to relate with the day itself. The God of Christmas is the God of love

who is with us always, and became human to share with us the good times and the hard times, all the time.

Let us not wait until Christmas to “get in the spirit,” but decide now, before we are caught up in the activities of this particular PC day, on the spirit with which we want to move towards December 25.