

God, Life, and Everything  
"Farewell"

Dear Friends,

This is my final column. At least for the time being.

Since the opening of the Hudson Valley News, Jim Langan has been kind enough to let me ramble on in my own fashion about things great and small. I've written about evolution, Boy Scouts, Valentines Day, tattoos, racism, sexism, atheism, violence, holidays, and Facebook.

Jim never put a leash on me, never tried to restrict my topics or my positions on them even when they were quixotic or unpopular. In short, he allowed me to truly make this column about "God, Life, and Everything."

In 2014, Jim even went so far as to publish a series of my columns in a book by the same name. (By the way, you can still buy a copy if you want.) For all of these things, I am grateful. Thank you, Jim.

But now, I feel the need for a break.

Life at the church has always kept me on my toes, and these days things seem to be picking up steam rather than slowing down. I'm involved in more community activities, giving lectures at a rate I've not done before, and still trying to figure out what it means to be a priest in the twenty-first century.

I simply don't have the time - or more importantly, the energy - to keep up with this as well. It would be great if I were made of the stuff of some superhuman priests I know who do it all - but that's not me.

I think I may be one of those folks who needs to spend a lot of time staring at clouds or watching the grass grow. I never get bored, even if I'm just contemplating the ceiling of my bedroom. Mark Twain once said there were some people who were so heavenly minded that they were no earthly good. I may be one of those people.

The fact that I am stepping back from the column doesn't mean I won't still write. In the church, there are weekly sermons, weekly newsletters, class lectures, pageants and, of course, Graveyard tour scripts. Add to that my private hobby of fiction writing (which I share with my local writers group).

One of the reasons I have continued writing the column for so long is the feedback I receive from so many of you. Occasionally, you have taken me to task (and I've returned the favor once or twice), but for the most part it has been the kind of feedback that puts a little spring in my step. I will miss that. Thank you.

Perhaps there will be a day when "God, Life, and Everything" will return. That depends on so many things. In the meantime, please know how much fun it has been to write for you and what an honor it has been to have you read it.

Grace and Peace,  
Chuck