

Arthur Gordon had a problem that had dogged him for awhile. He finally called his good friend Ken and asked if he could come over. After a couple of hours of conversation Arthur felt much better about his situation. Grateful for his friend's time, Arthur asked Ken a question, "Ken you have such a deep calm and a comforting wisdom. Where did you get it?" Ken pondered his question and then opened his desk drawer and pulled out a box that he set on his lap. 'If I have the qualities you say that I do, they come from inside this box." Back in the 1920's I was a Wall Street wonder boy. Everything I touched turned to gold. I made and spent money very fast. I married a woman not because I loved her but because she was eye candy on my arm. I just wasn't capable of real love. Then came the Wall Street crash of 1939. I went from being a millionaire to being a pauper. I went off to a beach cottage to drink and for three solid days I accomplished my goal. On the third day I decided to end my life. I would walk into the ocean and let nature take its course. The sea was pretty rough when I got out

to the beach and as I started to wade into the water my eye caught sight of something partially buried in the sand. When I stooped down I discovered that it was a beautiful seashell half buried in the sand.

As I studied it I wondered how it could have survived the stormy waves and pounding surf. This seashell gave me an insight:

The shell survived because it didn't put up any resistance to the elements. That shell floated along in the waves accepting them as part of its life. From the beautiful little seashell I learned the art of living. Instead of growing angry and frustrated with the bad breaks of this life I decided to stop worrying and just float along and accept them when they came. I just realized that all the anger and worry in the world wasn't going to make a difference. I kept the shell that I found on the beach that day and I put it in this box.

Anytime I begin to worry or get frustrated I pull out the box and

look at my shell. It is a helpful reminder of my new philosophy of life.

This philosophy is exactly what Jesus is talking about in our gospel today. When we find ourselves facing difficult situations the only thing we can do is turn to Christ and let him hold us and protect us. With the help of the seven sacraments, our personal prayers, and our reception of the Eucharist at mass we can stay afloat drifting through the swells and waves of life's storms. We can also gain personal strength from those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. People like The Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, Mother Theresa of Calcutta, Saint John Paul the II just to name a few, They surrendered to God and he in return gave them confidence, direction, and love.

No one could better fit the bill for us Knights of Columbus than Father McGivney, the founder of the Knights. He was a young priest who desired to protect the Christian Family in his life. He

was always interested in the well being of others and in particular young men who were husbands and fathers. He worked tirelessly to get them to understand the importance of their presence and input into their family's dynamic.

I close today with a verse that I think captures the power of Christ's message. It is entitled THERE'S A REASON

For every pain that we must bear, for every burden, every care  
There's a reason. For every grief that bows the head for every  
teardrop that is shed There is a reason. For every hurt and every  
plight for every lonely, painracked night there is a reason. But if  
we trust God as we should, It will turn out for good because He  
knows the reason.