

There's a song in Camelot that calls this "the lusty month of May." But more and more May seems not so lusty as it is overwrought. This is a month of weddings, ordinations, anniversaries, graduations, meetings + ~~graduations~~ gatherings people want to get 'in before ~~the~~ summer comes. These are all wonderful occasions, but if two or more come to you or your family during the month of May, just may be last on your list.

May is like December - it brings part of life to a close. Our school teachers say how good it is to have a job that comes to a close and then begins all over again. But no matter how much May finishes off part of life, other parts of life never have a May. They just keep on keepin' on.

We have projects we never seem to finish. Some we've never begun. Some we just dream of doing someday. Some we work on, but the more we do the more we see there is yet to do. These projects are like Hercules' battle with the 7-headed hydra: everytime he chopped off one head the beast grew two more.

Unfinished projects are all around us. They say the typical executive has 36 hours of unfinished work lying on his or her desk at any time. It's probably true of housework, recreation, and the spiritual life. We have much we want to do. If there's 36 hours of work on my desk, that tells me it's nice to know I'll have something to do tomorrow, but it also tells me if I were to die suddenly, it would only take you 36 hours to finish up everything I've begun. If 5 of you worked at it you'd be done in less than one work day & still have time to go out for pizza.

Unfinished business is part of life and I think there are two approaches to it. The first is to dig in, to get to the stuff we are called to do. The second is to let go, to know that some things won't get done at least for now, and revise our expectations. This will make or break parents of young children. Either they go crazy trying to maintain order, or they accept that things will be messy for a while but eventually kids do learn to eat with a spoon.

The prayer of Jesus in today's Gospel he prayed on the night before he died. He looks back over his life and says it was good. He did what the Father wanted & his disciples will keep it up. All this he knows while betrayed, unbelief, and death close in on him. Still, Jesus is smug. He's done his work.

Of course there's some work we'll never finish. To repair the house, to eradicate drug abuse, to clean the air, to create a society of love is more than one of us can do. But we can each do our part, then rest in peace, though the task remain undone.

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