

En Theos

Enthusiasm for the Faith

Q *I've noticed that some people at my church won't move in their pew when others are looking for a seat; some don't give a dime to the collection basket; and some don't participate in any part of the Mass. Why do they bother to go to Mass anyway?*

A As in any human endeavor, there are people who do things we just don't like. Some of it is personal preference or style; and sometimes others are not as skilled or as advanced as we are. Certainly there are people who could say the same about us! People are in church for all kinds of reasons, each struggling with failures and faults. You never know what might be on someone's mind that day. The best dressed and most well-mannered is no better nor worse than the person who struggles with kids, noise, and distractions.

What matters most is that we allow each other the freedom to grow in faith and to deal with things as best we can. The person who does not contribute to the basket might be the one who writes a check once a year. The one not participating might be overwhelmed with guilt, grief or doubt. Someday we might just as easily need consideration and understanding. We need to support and pray for each other so that the whole church, each and every one of us, will grow stronger in our faith and deepen our own commitment to God and each other.

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