



Salvation & The Ice Cream Cone

July 2015

One day this past week while returning from the cemetery after a funeral, I drove along Route 290 with Diego, St. Mary's seminarian intern. I stopped in mid-sentence when I noticed a huge billboard with three ice cream cones advertising Friendly's. "Look at that." I exclaimed. "Heaven on earth. Ice cream in the summertime. Salvation." We drove another couple of miles and, lo and behold, another billboard with three Friendly ice cream cones.



I told Diego that I had worked at Friendly's when I was in high school and college...back in the day when Friendly's was Friendly's. He had never been to one. I explained how Friendly's was trying to make a comeback after most of the stores had been closed. Back in the day Friendly's knew what they were all about. Friendly's was hamburgers and ice cream. That 's it. But they lost their way when they tried to become like many other family restaurants like Denny's and Abdow's. They expanded their menu to include freeze dried spaghetti and chicken, but it never really worked for them. Now they have "seen the light" and have decided to go back to their beginnings and start all over again. It could prove to be their salvation.

Our lives as Christians sometimes follow a similar pattern. We live life knowing who we are, what we are about and what we are called to do. But it is easy to lose our way as we try to become someone we are not. Perhaps we fall down and fail. But when we go back to our beginnings and remember who we are and how we are to live, we, too, can reclaim our authentic lives and find salvation. Enjoy these warm and sunny days of summer. Rediscover the source of our salvation - The Lord Jesus. And enjoy an ice cream cone!