

What's In *Your* Tank?

In these days of high gas prices, we have a tendency to want to economize as much as possible. Personally, I prefer to look at every gas station on the way to my destination, checking out which one has the lowest price; and then, on my way back, I pull into the best option and fill 'er up. Loyalty to certain brands plays a bit of a role in my choice; but I still try to find the lowest price. I find that I've been filling up more frequently, because eight gallons feels less painful than fifteen. Plus, I don't want to get caught short. So, it's become a habit. I regularly check to see **what's in my tank.**

Much of the time, I realize that what we do in our normal, daily lives often has an application to our spiritual lives. Take my experience with checking my gas tank. Physical fuel is important to keep a car running. What about your soul? What does it take to keep *it* running? And so, I ask: **What's in *your* tank?**

Your spiritual tank is much more important than your car's fuel tank. Yet, most of the time, we don't even bother to think about it very much. After all, "there are so many concerns in my life that occupy my attention. You know: the economy, my job, the children, my health." Yes, that's all true. But what happens when your "soul-tank" is empty?

When you run out of "soul fuel" how do you feel? Agitated? Pretty empty? Short-tempered? Giving up hope? Angry at God? I think we've all experienced one or more of these feelings at some time or another in our life.

So, what's the answer to our "soul-fuel" problem? Obviously, I believe that it starts with getting our spiritual tanks filled. It's pretty difficult to focus upon our "other" life when we're running on fumes. What can Easter mean to you, when you hardly have any desire to get in touch with Jesus, whom we acknowledge as living right here with us and in us? **Easter. Jesus is Risen!** And we might respond: "**So what?!**" That's quite a normal response when we have an emotional and spiritual disconnect from the things of God.

Well, then, how can I help you get in touch with the meaning of Easter? First, I submit that we're all in the same boat. We're all looking for deeper meaning in our lives – whether we openly admit it or not. In other words, **we all need God; we all want God.** Second, I submit that it's time to surrender, to let down your guard. Even the Apostles had to do that. They found it hard to believe that Jesus could make a difference in their lives after He died. But, once He rose and was **alive**, they were **energized!** Their spiritual tanks were filled. **A whole new life lay ahead of them. Nothing could defeat them – not reverses of fortune, nor illness, nor death.**

That's the kind of attitude and faith all of us can have, too. In order to get to that point, however, I'd like to pose a few questions and submit a few suggestions. Number one: **with what are you fueled** – with regular, mid-grade or premium? Are you satisfied with coming to Mass some of the time? You believe God exists; but He's not an everyday commodity. That's **regular.** Do you attend Mass most of the time? Go to confession maybe every other year or longer? That's **mid-grade.** However, **our spiritual engines are designed by God to run most efficiently on premium fuel.** That's the fuel that prompts us to joyfully let God take charge of

our lives – to submit to Him, to let Him give us real peace, even in the midst of troubles and hardships. This is the fuel that **fires us up!**

Now, **what are the components of this premium fuel?** Basically, the components can be summed up in terms of three **challenges: communion, community and commitment.**

Communion with Jesus in the Eucharist; worshiping with each other in the **community** of believers; **commitment** to Jesus and His way of life. Now, **that's** high-powered! Anything less is not very fulfilling, and, honestly, quite boring.

Our “soul-fuel”, too, depends upon a constant additive – to keep us functioning at our highest level. And that's... **STP. Sacraments...Thanksgiving...Prayer!** Be faithful celebrating the **Sacraments**, especially Mass and communion weekly. Always be **Thankful** – for **every** turn of events in your life. **Pray** daily. Keep in touch with God.

Fill your tank with this high-powered fuel, and nothing will stop you from running the good race and, as St. Paul says, getting to the finish line as a **winner!** Like the apostles, it will take a lifetime, but **you'll get there!**

The best thing about this high-powered fuel? It doesn't cost you anything but your time; and, **you can fill up any time you want.** What a deal! It's yours for the asking. Make the decision today – to let Jesus fill *your* tank. And when you do, you'll be the happiest person on earth. You'll have peace. Nothing negative will ever defeat you. I guarantee that you will glow – just like Jesus – with a **new, unbelievable, resurrected life.** **This** is the meaning of Easter. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we now have access to all the things of heaven

And so, I ask you once again...**What's in *your* tank? What do you *want* in your tank?**