

A Good Way to Start the Day

I awoke this morning and remembered that I had to go to the grocery store. I wanted to go to Vince and Joe's at 25 Mile Rd and I wanted to go early. I hurriedly dressed and jumped (ok more like crawled) into my car and left home about 8:05. The store opens at 8 a.m. and I was hoping to avoid the crowds that seem to gather at this popular store. I got to the store around 8:15 and the parking lot was actually reasonably empty. I parked in the handicapped spot across from the entrance and went into the store. I was greeted by some very happy workers, joked with the gentleman in produce and did my thing there with the produce I needed. When another woman and I nearly collided we both laughed as if this was really quite funny. I then bought fish where I was greeted by a smile and instant service. Another woman as I was passing by excitedly told me that bacon was on sale, I thanked her. I continued on to the meat where I bought way too much meat and the pound of bacon I had to have because "Hey, it was on sale!" and joked with the smiling and very helpful clerk that I probably had enough to last one person until Easter. As I left, I told her what a lovely smile she had, and she thanked me and blessed me some more with her smile. I then saw a woman who out of the blue told me she was buying food for a dinner celebrating the commissioning of Stephen Ministers at her church. I mentioned that we had that at our church also and told her about Celebrate Recovery and Stars and the Grief Ministry that we have also. I told her she should come and visit us, and she said that she was a member at a Catholic church in Romeo and I told her I had gone there for their blood drives many years ago and what a pleasant group they were then. We talked about the problems facing churches these days and how things had changed. I then went to the cashier having purchased enough food to last until Easter. The cashier was smiling and laughing, and we talked about being grandmothers and I told her the joy continues when you are a great grandmother. She mentioned one of her granddaughters is such a joy but has a disability. I told her of my granddaughter's trials with two children having food allergies and that she is such a great Mom and has tackled this problem with the zeal and fervor of a Momma Bear and that I am constantly amazed at her ability to take on every protection she can for her two babies. She talked about how special education for her sweet granddaughter seems more custodial than educational and that they have found more success through a young tutor that has increased the child's ability to read. I wished her a good day and left the store having spent enough money to buy a small city in some countries. I counted my blessings that I have the money and the ability to shop. It was 9:15 and the parking lot which I personally believe was designed by someone who hated people who drive cars, was starting to fill. I said a little prayer that the clerks would have a good day and their smiles would continue all day and that the people in the store who had consistently smiled at me would also have a blessed day. A chore I had been putting off for three days until I absolutely had to go the store had been a wonderful experience filled with happy, kind, people. We can find God and his blessings even in Vince and Joe's on a Saturday morning. Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 13:1-2 Keep on loving each other as brothers. Do not forget to entertain strangers for by so doing it some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Lord let us always remember that we are your children, and you delight in us. Let us be kind to all we meet. We ask Lord that you be with us in our days and be with us in our strengths and in our weaknesses. Be with those who are ill and those who grieve may we reach out and comfort them. Be with those in our midst who are worried and alone, may we be your instruments with them. Bless our staff and leaders, be with them in all they do. Be with our Pastor and the mission team as they return. Give them rest and reflection. May we express our gratitude for all they have done as they have been the face of Christ in another land. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

Grace Epperson