

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York 14202

Traditionally Speaking by S. Casarotto 9/27/09

LAUGHING WITH GOD

I am always thankful to my late mother for giving me a sense of humor. She would not have endured so many hardships if, besides faith and prayer, she did not have a natural instinct to always look at the funny side of things. At times, her humor was a good weapon of self-defense. She was never caught off-guard. Mom grew up in a land where humor and wit are imbedded in the character of its people. Farmers are close to nature and they always catch the other side of things.

The over 40 references to laughter in the Bible prove that God has a sense of humor and wants us to laugh too.

When Noah, on God's command, started building the ark, his nosy neighbor wondered, "How long can you tread water?"

It is easy to imagine Jesus chuckling at Cana when He saw the reaction of wedding guests who tasted wine when they thought they were drinking water. And it was of good quality!

Here are just a few other examples:

"Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah then said, "God has given me cause to laugh and all who hear of it will laugh with me." (*Gn. 21, 6*)

"The One enthroned in heaven laughs." (*Ps. 2, 4*)

"A glad heart lights up the face, but by mental anguish the spirit is broken." (*Prov. 15, 13*).

"Blessed are you who are now sorrowing, for you shall laugh." (*Lk. 6, 21*).

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy may be full." (*Jn. 15, 11*).