



fpc news

FLASHES

Pastor's Pen

By Richard Lapehn

Zero Sum Game?

The concept of a zero-sum game evolved in game theory. The premise is as follows: in a game of chess, for instance, if you capture one of my chess pieces. I lose the equivalent of one piece off the board. One person's gain is equal to another person's loss.

In every game of tennis, for example, one player wins the match while the other player across the net loses the match. Both players cannot win, and both players cannot lose. One person's loss is equal to and the opposite of another person's victory.

Many persons carry the mindset of a zero-sum game into the world. These persons would view every other person as an adversary, a competitor for limited resources and scant opportunities. The thought is that I cannot gain unless some person loses.

Fund-raising efforts for every organization attempt to cast as wide a net as possible to gain the greatest attention and financial support for their cause. Every fund-raising group acknowledges there is a limited pool of money that people can and will contribute for charitable purposes. But God's way is different.

The good news we share in the Church is that God's love, mercy, and forgiveness are NOT divided up as in a zero-sum game. God can and does love the persons we admire and respect as well as the persons whom we do not. The deep well of God's grace never runs dry. Just as God wishes to bless our lives, God's abundant blessings are likewise poured into the lives of others near and far.

God's call upon our lives is to be stewards of these resources that never expire, never become siphoned only to one group or another, and never experience supply-chain bottlenecks.

We have the greatest joy to offer an endless supply of good news to friends and family desperately in need of it. May we be generous with the limitless grace of God.

Praying for our world to know peace, security, and hope in Christ,
Rich Lapehn