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NUM3ERS

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NUM3ERS

Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Both Dianne and I are engineers. I guess you could say we like numbers. So here we go. 46: The number of years we have been alive. 1964: Both born in Utica, New York. 2: The number of parents we are each blessed to still have with us. My parents are of Italian descent. Dianne's are of Polish heritage. Both sets of parents are very proud of their ancestry. 5: The number of siblings I have plus 3, the number of siblings I have in heaven. 1: The number of siblings Dianne has. 54: The number of years Dianne's parents have been married. 48: The number of years my parents have been married. 102: The sum of these 2 numbers, and an incredible number in this day and age. 23: The number of years we have been married. 4: The number of children we have on earth with us. 1: Baby in heaven as a result of a miscarriage. 18, 18, 13, 6: The ages of our children Vinny Jr., Kaity (yes twins), Tommy and Pauly."



From Our Guest Writer

NUM3ERS

Dr. Vincent J. Amuso Sr. (RIT)

Both Dianne and I are engineers. I guess you could say we like numbers. So here we go.

46: The number of years we have been alive. **1964:** Both born in Utica, New York. **2:** The number of parents we are each blessed to still have with us. My parents are of Italian descent. Dianne's are of Polish heritage. Both sets of parents are very proud of their ancestry. **5:** The number of siblings I have plus **3**, the number of siblings I have in heaven. **1:** The number of siblings Dianne has. **54:** The number of years Dianne's parents have been married. **48:** The number of years my parents have been married. **102:** The sum of these **2** numbers, and an incredible number in this day and age. **23:** The number of years we have been married. **4:** The number of children we have on earth with us. **1:** Baby in heaven as a result of a miscarriage. **18, 18, 13, 6:** The ages of our children Vinny Jr., Kaity (yes twins), Tommy and Pauly.

Let me stop with the numbers for a bit and talk about what our children mean to us. Pope John Paul the Great said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." At one time I would say that he was just making an obvious statement that most people across ethnic and cultural lines would agree upon. But times have changed and more than ever the family bond and experiences that are part of everyday life are what makes us strong as a family, community, church, nation, and members of the human race. I remember vividly looking at Vinny and Kaity when we first brought them home from the hospital and feeling as though I was looking at God himself. I absolutely, unconditionally loved them instantly. Even though I had never seen them before and I did not know what type of personality they would have, it was just pure love. When you have twins you get a little sleep-deprived but it is ok because being in the presence of those little innocents is more comforting than any experience that can be described. Vinny was born first after about **12** hours of a difficult and at times scary labor. At one point the medical team thought we had lost Kaity. Thank God she was born about an hour after Vinny. She was born with eyes wide open. She looked at me and I looked at her. After the twins were born and before we brought them home, Dianne and I decided that we would each be responsible for one particular baby during the night. I chose Vinny and Dianne took Kaity. Vinny decided that his favorite time of the day was 2:00 am to 6:00 am. He did not cry or fuss; he just wanted to be held in my arms. That is what I did. For about two months straight. I admit that I was always tired but those were some of the best times of my life to date. I looked at Vinny and he would look at me. It was a very spiritual experience for me. Every parent should be blessed with the gift of twins. I know Dianne and I thank God for them both, and especially for giving them to us at the same time.

Nearly 6 years later our son Tommy was born. We still have a big laugh as a family because I passed out while he was being born. Tommy has the special gift of comforting anybody he comes in contact with; especially me. Since he was a baby I would just pick him up and hold him and any frustrations or tensions I had due to difficulties in the day would leave my body instantly. He still has that effect on me. The only time I experience that same feeling is at the moment of absolution during the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tommy brings the Holy Spirit to me when I need comforting.

About 7 years later Paul came to us. We started trying to have another baby 4 years after Tommy's birth. We were a little older and in the back of my mind I worried about Dianne's health as well as the health of a baby that God would give us. As each month passed I began to think that we would not be blessed with another child. I began to get depressed, and as the months turned to 1 year then 2 and then nearly 3 years I realized that I was not being honest and open with God. Every parent prays for the health of their children from the time before they are conceived. I realized that I was not being open to God's will in sending me His child no matter what the circumstances or health might be. I vividly remember the day I prayed to God asking Him that His will be done, and I would accept His child in His time. That next month Pauly was conceived. Pauly is the mixture of his three siblings. He makes me feel like a young twenty-something father again. He is full of energy and constantly tells us he loves us; especially his mommy. He has been telling me that he loves Mary because he knows she is Jesus' mommy. He understands the mother-son bond and understands the love that Jesus has for his "Mommy".

Let me tie together the love Dianne and I have for each other, the we learned through experiencing those many years of marital love shared by our parents. This parental love is an earthly manifestation of fatherly love personified in God the Father. I have experienced at least a small part of His unfathomable love in the gaze of Kaity's eyes shortly after she was born, and the looks I received from Vinny in the wee hours of the morning when he was so little. The result of God's Love is His Son Jesus. The result of my love for Dianne is physically evident in my children, who after all are on loan to us from God Himself. The warmth and Love I feel from Tommy's hugs are like the Holy Spirit filling my whole being with His love. Being blessed with Pauly has taught me to trust in God and to realize He loves me more that I can imagine; that I can go to Jesus' "Mommy" like Pauly tells me I can. Finally our baby in heaven ties our earthly family with a member who is already in the communion of saints.

So I will end with the numbers 3, 1 and 5. The 3 Persons in 1 God Dianne and I experience as a result of our 5 children.



The Amuso Family