

These days nearly everybody has a computer. Gone, it seems, are the days when computer hobbyists actually built their own computers either from scratch or various component parts.

Computers, for all intents and purposes have become just another appliance. But not an appliance like a toaster, where things are intuitively obvious. More like the old-school VCRs where the clock on the front panel flashed “twelve - oh - oh” in a good many households.

Who among us hasn't either experienced first hand - or maybe heard about someone - or even seen it spoofed on a television sit-com ... calling the HELP line to get things going when you can't make any sense of why the computer doesn't work right out of the box.

You end up on the phone with a cheerful attendant ... who despite having a thick Indian accent ... insists that their name is “John” or “Mary.” They are obviously reading from a script, and no matter what you want tell them, they just have to start at the beginning and ask you a whole bunch of ridiculously simple questions.

Maybe it's the first question ... maybe it's a question later on in the list ... maybe it's just a joke on a TV show ... but at some point, the question comes up:

“Is the computer plugged into a functioning wall socket?”

Saint Paul speaking to the Christians in Thessalonika in today's second reading is asking them a similar question. He is asking them if they are still plugged into the Gospel that he preached to them.

There were some problems in the Thessalonian church, where people were hearing conflicting voices from all sorts of different sources ... and they were becoming “shaken” in their faith. Saint Paul wants to make sure that their “connection” to Jesus Christ and His Gospel was secure in the midst of all the doubt and confusion that had been stirred up.

In today's Gospel account, we hear of Zacchaeus who wants to get near Jesus.

Now Zacchaeus had a couple of things working against him.

First, he was short ... that's in the Gospel story ... so it must be true.

Second, he wasn't very well-liked ... after all, he was a tax-collector. And in Jesus' time, that meant that you were working for the enemy.

But to Zacchaeus' merit, he didn't let either of those things get in his way. He ran - probably not the easiest thing for a wealthy man with a desk job ... let alone someone with short legs ... so that he could get ahead of the crowd.

Then he climbed a tree - again, not very easy for a sedentary adult, let alone a short one.

Despite his limitations, he did what he could to connect with Jesus, and in the end he was rewarded for this - after repenting of his past life, and making restitution for his past sins.

This is what happens when we look to plug into the Divine Life of God - the Divine Life given to all of us in our Baptism; and lost through various actions that DISCONNECT us from God's grace.

God doesn't un-plug us from Himself ... WE UNPLUG OURSELVES.

But despite our limitations - we fall short of the glory of God ... we turn away from God's friendship ... God is drawing us back to him ... working to get us PLUGGED BACK IN.

Such is God's love for each and every one of us.

Even when we aren't thinking about Our Lord, He is calling to us ... when God may be the last thing on our minds, He is thinking about us ... when we're WAY off base and doing whatever we may do that has little to do with God or Jesus Christ; He is looking for us to bring us back. To hook us back in to His glory ... to His power ... to His Divine Life.

Today as we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for the grace to PLUG BACK INTO GOD'S LIFE ... GOD'S GRACE ... GOD'S POWER. Let us respond to the efforts of Our Lord to call us, to find us, to draw us back.

God desires nothing more than to have us all united with Him for all eternity ... to have us forever with Him as His beloved sons and daughters, redeemed in Jesus Christ, and ... when we're PLUGGED IN ... filled with the POWER of the Holy Spirit.