

Fr Michael's Seeds of Hope, Stories for Lent #5: Baby Giraffes

We can learn a lesson of life from the animal kingdom.

When a baby giraffe is born, it falls 10 feet from its mother's womb and usually lands on its back. Within seconds, it rolls over and tucks its legs under its body.

From this position, it takes in the world for the first time. This is when the mother giraffe rudely introduces her offspring to the reality of life.

The mother giraffe lowers her head to look at her baby. Then she does something that seems odd to us. She swings her long leg outward, kicking her calf, sending it sprawling head over heels.

When the baby doesn't get up, the process is repeated over and over and over again until the young calf finally stands on its wobbly legs.

So what does the mama giraffe do now? She kicks it off its feet again. Why would she repeat this cruel routine?

She does this because she instinctively knows she needs to teach her baby to remember how to get up.

In the wild, a baby giraffe that cannot stand and run quickly away from predators, will quickly become a meal.

The mother giraffe knows the only way we learn to get back up is by being knocked down. Are you feeling like life has been knocking you down lately?

Like the baby giraffe, do you feel that as soon as you get back on your feet, you get knocked flat on your face again?

Keep getting up. No matter how futile it seems. Keep getting up.

And when you feel you don't have enough strength to get up on our own, ask the Lord to help you. We can learn a lot from the Animal Kingdom, can we not?

Amen? Amen.

For Further Reflection:

1. When was a time you felt "knocked flat on your face?"

2. Can you recall a time when a disappointing failure turned into a valuable learning experience? What did you learn from that?

"But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved." Matthew 24:13