

I received a proper Jesuit Education at a proper Catholic University and learned quite a bit. For example, the concept of God being Omnipresent, Omniscient and Omnipotent is forever emblazoned in my mind.

But recently something about God jumped out at me during the gathering song at Mass: it was a line from “Morning has Broken.” You know, you read or sing something a hundred times and then suddenly one time something pops out at you. For me it was the line:

Praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day.

Every day God recreates.

Thinking about this my mind went to the movie “Groundhog Day.” (Stay with me on this.) It’s a terrific movie with Bill Murray. The trailer states: “Life has a funny way of repeating itself.”

I won’t give the whole movie plot away but it is about a self-centered weather forecaster (he uses the term “The Talent” when referring to himself) who goes to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania to report on the Groundhog. The newscaster is arrogant, disrespectful of others and generally sardonic towards people and life.

Then, at Punxsutawney, he is somehow forced to live Groundhog Day over and over. After awhile he knows what is going to happen next in the day because he’s been there already, so to speak.

Gradually he changes his attitude: he fixes an elderly lady's flat car tire, rescues a kid in a tree, saves a man at a restaurant with a Heimlich maneuver; and best of all, he falls in love. Finally, he is allowed to go on with his life and the date changes from February 2 to February 3.

It seems to me there is a lesson about God in this. I've noticed, in my own life, that with the most difficult and sometimes personally messed up periods and memories of my life, God recreates a situation on a different day later in life that is similar so that, if I am smart enough, I will do it a different way the second time around. Or sometimes God graciously will present an opportunity to me that even without my doing anything the experience heals a previously painful memory.

That's more than just being omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent; it's a reflection of His Love.

And once more, if I don't get it, God presents it again until I get it right; after I come out of my hibernation and whether I see my shadow or not.