

PASTOR'S COLUMN—DECEMBER 21, 2012

Dear Parishioners:

Although Christmas formally celebrates Jesus the Son of God being born into our humanity, there is another birth Jesus brings to the world. This is the rebirth of the human heart, that is, the conversion of the human heart to be more aligned with God's way of love.

Scripture talks of hard-heartedness and how God's Love softens our hearts to be more "flexible" in adapting to new ways of living **the Way**, Jesus. There is a temptation to point at other people and say: "my life will change if they change" but the "rebirth" in Christ Jesus reminds us that we ourselves are called to change (rebirth). Rebirth in the Lord Jesus is the cost of discipleship but the fruits of rebirth are more peace and mercy-filled justice in our approach to our many neighbors on the earth.

Jesus' birth is a special remembrance on December 25th but rebirth in Jesus is a present moment specialness that impacts every day of the year. The psalms encourage us not to "harden our hearts" so that God's warm love for us will set us free from cold-heartedness toward our neighbors.

Loving you in Christ,

Fr. Terry