

PASTOR'S COLUMN—JANUARY 20, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

I realize it is winter these days but I was recently thinking about Great America Amusement Park in Gurnee, Illinois. Thrill-rides are a big attraction to the Park but have we noticed that each thrill-ride only lasts a couple of minutes. People stand in line for 30-60 minutes to experience 2 minutes of thrills. And as soon as the ride is over, people scurry to the next thrill-ride with more waiting and 2 more thrilling minutes. This constitutes amusement?

We do tend to let ourselves be duped into thinking that life is a series of “thrills”. But if we consider how much energy is expended in experiencing a series of thrills at “Great America”, it may begin to sink into us that this way of life is crazy.

Jesus comes to soothe us in our thrill-seeking and reassure us that we don't need to live an “Amusement Park” life in order to be happy. To live in Holy Communion with Jesus is to find peace-filled contentment in every moment without having to travel to “Gurnee”. It is so liberating to know that in Christ we have constant happiness no matter what unfolds in our lives. Yes, this is a faith in Christ issue, it is a salvation issue! Jesus' love is not a thrill-ride but it is a daily pilgrimage of faith amidst life's many “twists and turns”.

Loving you in Christ,

Fr. Terry