

PASTOR'S COLUMN—MARCH 10, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

I heard an interesting quote recently: “Americans want to live a long life, but they do not look forward to getting old”. Such an irony—we want long lives but not old lives! What’s the problem with getting old? Oh, there is a greater likelihood that we will lose our independence if we get too old. We don’t want to be a burden on others in our old feebleness.

Alright now, let us calm down and thank God for now. It does not matter how many years old we are when we die. And it does not matter what kind of mobile/non-mobile condition we are in when we die. All that matters is that we are faithful to God in Christ the Son through the power of the Holy Spirit. And we will be faithful to God when we realize that life is not about keeping our bodies alive! Rather, life is about love now. The more deeply we love in the present moment, letting go of fear, worry and anxiety about our body, the healthier we will be in total. Yes, our bodies will still wear out but that will not be our focus. Instead, our focus will be on living Christ’s presence which means to love.

To be emptied of self includes letting go of body preservation and embracing the risk of living life more fully as fear, worry and anxiety diminish thanks to our Holy Communion with Jesus. Unless we get over our fear of death, we will not be able to love. This is our call to love as an outgrowth of our faith in Jesus.

To rewrite that quote: “We are to live loving lives now, oblivious to our age”.

Loving you now in Christ,

Fr. Terry