

PASTOR'S COLUMN—MARCH 21, 2016

Dear Parishioners:

Labels are one approach we use to get control over people. For example, once we know a person's name we feel a sense of "I know who you are now". For Jesus, he looks for a label from Peter and the other early disciples about who people say Jesus is. However, Jesus knows that no label can define him for Jesus simply is. Jesus is God's presence in the world and in humanity and no label suffices for describing the mystery of God with us. God is in Christ the Savior and His authority is founded in His call "to serve and not be served".

We were given our names at Baptism and it is true that God's call for us in Christ is to take on the name of Christ since we are members of the One Body of Christ. And if we want to describe who we are in the Body of Christ, it is clarified by Jesus the Servant of all Servants. To be one in the Body of Christ is "to serve and not be served". Jesus is in us all the time through the Holy Spirit which means we live Holy Communion with Jesus all the time. This is the Good News and it is how we are Servants of the Lord. Jesus is eternally active within us, encouraging us in His Risen Love to rise out of our labels that we put on people and to love them in Christ where Christ is Love for all people.

United with you in the Body of Christ,

Fr. Terry