

PASTOR'S COLUMN—MAY 19, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

Some say that married couples start to look like each other after several years of being together. Maybe that is the case, but what is more significant is that after several years of faithful commitment to Jesus, we, single or married, start to look like Jesus. Literally, our faces radiate Christ's presence in our eyes and in our facial peace.

Mysteriously, looking like Jesus is connected to solitude which is aloneness in Jesus. We find utter contentment in our aloneness with Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is very different from loneliness which is our missing being with people. Solitude/Aloneness in Christ is peaceable joy that sets us free to authentically love. The more comfortable we are with Solitude in Christ, the more we will look like Jesus, that is, we will radiate the freedom necessary to love without clinging or possessiveness.

Our Lord Jesus comes to set us free from our selves by filling us with Christ's Holy Communion presence. We need Solitude/Aloneness in order to decrease so that the Lord Jesus may increase within us. The conversion that unfolds is our looking like Jesus more consistently for, after all, we are Jesus' spouse: he is our groom and we are his bride through the gift of Baptism.

Loving you out of solitude,

Fr. Terry