

PASTOR'S COLUMN—JULY 8, 2013

Dear Parishioners:

One of the liberating aspects of summer is that we don't have to wear a jacket. Being able to navigate outside with short sleeves means less clothing-weight to carry around. Unfortunately, we may be wearing another form of "jacket" even on the hottest days of summer. It's the "jacket" of guilt. Yes, there is that tendency for us to hold on to regretful choices from our past and "fuel" them with guilt—that is, "oh how terrible we were in the past!" OK, let's repent, that is, be sorry for what we have done to Jesus but let us not "wear" guilt around like a "jacket".

Unresolved guilt can weigh heavy upon us to the point of immobilizing our hearts. We end up weary from the heaviness of guilt and our capacity for loving becomes paralyzed. Our energy for discipleship diminishes and our daily lives reach an impasse. Let us trust Jesus more deeply as we let go of our guilt and "lighten up" in Christ's mercy.

Jackets are sometimes necessary but during the summer we are less likely to need a jacket. More importantly, in Christ's mercy we can shed the guilt "jacket" year-round and be daily energized to love God and neighbor more deeply.

Loving you in Christ,

Fr. Terry