

PASTOR'S COLUMN—AUGUST 10, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

The most significant experience that we have in our earthly journey is God forgiving our sins. Christ the Savior of the World makes it faith clear to us that the new and eternal covenant of God's Love is founded in the forgiveness of sin. With a mustard seed size faith we realize that Jesus' death and resurrection is about forgiveness and new life. Perhaps we have noticed that Holy Communion with Jesus means Holy Communion with forgiveness. In our desire to receive Jesus' Body and Blood is the stirring implication that the Sacrament of Salvation is the Sacrament of forgiveness.

Anytime we forgive, we are experiencing Christ's saving oneness. To be one with Christ is to be one with our neighbors via forgiveness. It is easy to find a myriad of reasons for being divided about our neighbors; however, in living Christ, we realize that the peace of Christ flows out of his reconciling love. The new covenant of God's eternal love grows a little more here on earth anytime we forgive ourselves and others.

God is not a punishing God for God reveals through Jesus the Son of God made human, that God is forgiving. We are not to be presumptuous about God's mercy, but rather, we need to be humble and open to the continual change of heart that surfaces from our repentance/forgiveness. The most significant gift from God that flows from Christ's forgiveness of our sins is the blessed energy of Christ's peace. And more than likely, eternal life in Christ after our earthly journey will be eternally impacted by Christ's saving peace.

In Our Forgiving God,

Fr. Terry