

PASTOR'S COLUMN—SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

In some parts of our country, people have storm shelters that they can run to if the weather gets rough. Their house may blow away but their storm shelter remains standing, protecting its occupants. We have a “storm shelter” within our hearts made out of God’s intimate oneness with us in Christ. We experience this oneness as inner peace. Nothing can disturb us within, no matter what life’s circumstances may present. Which suggests we do not use our Catholic faith as an escape from present reality. That we are not dwelling on getting out of here (the earth) and going to eternal life. Inner peace is eternal life in present reality. Holy Communion with Jesus takes away escapism from our religion vocabulary and replaces it with savoring God’s “shelter” of constant care in our every moment.

Unrest surfaces in our lives when we allow ourselves to be “wagged around” by the externals of this world such as materialism and individualism which encourages shallowness and unreflectiveness. When Holy Communion with Jesus fills our depths, we can peaceably let go of living a shallow and unreflective life. We can live in present reality without trying to escape it because our inner shelter in Christ is already eternal life.

Jesus encourages us to choose life, not death. Life in Christ is better than any storm shelter, for the “shelter” of inner peace can weather any “storm” in life. Intimate oneness with Christ is with us in present reality. Let us savor it and live it with greater depth of inner peace.

With Inner Peace in Christ,

Fr. Terry