

PASTOR'S COLUMN—OCTOBER 6, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

Jesus has two names: Jesus and Emmanuel. The name Jesus means he saves us from our sins and Emmanuel means God is with us. Our two-named Savior freely chooses in conjunction with God Our Father's Will to be born of Mary into our humanity. This is amazing when we take a look around at the Universe with its many galaxies, constellations and planets. Out of all that God creates, God reveals the Savior of the Universe in our humanity.

There are people who believe that there is life on other planets or in other parts of the Universe. These life forms are sometimes referred to as aliens. From God's saving love perspective, it does not matter if there are other life forms in the universe. What does matter is the Jesus/Emmanuel is the divine Lord and Savior who comes into our humanity. He does not come as some alien including a Martian. Our Lord of the Universe comes into the familiar territory of our flesh and blood humanness. The divine has created the universe but the divine specifically chooses to bring the divine into people. We can speculate ad nauseam about life elsewhere other than earth, but the faith fact is that God freely chooses to enter into our humanity. The rest of creation is redeemed by Jesus/Emmanuel in the midst of Our Lord being one with us in our flesh and blood humanness.

Romans 8 talks about how "all of creation groans for redemption". This includes the Universe all around the earth. Jesus/Emmanuel is the redeemer of all of creation which includes any life forms that reside "out there" somewhere.

Our two-named Savior is amazing in revealing God's Divine presence in our humanity. If we wonder sometimes what we ought to be thankful for, this is it: God freely chooses out of God's expansive Universe to specifically bring the divine into the human! Wow, Lord of forgiveness who is always with us! Thank you!

Grateful for the Divine in our Humanity,

Fr. Terry