

PASTOR'S COLUMN—NOVEMBER 9, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

Sometimes when we read Scripture, we may get the impression that our bodies are at war with the Holy Spirit. The Body versus Spirit dichotomy can be misleading because we might think our bodies are the enemy to our spiritual life. However, Jesus is born into our humanity to clarify that our bodies are sacred vessels of the Holy Spirit and are to be treated with reverence and dignity. The specific avenue to God's intimacy is founded in our bodies and Jesus' death and resurrection has affirmed that our Holy Communion with Jesus at Mass is the confirmation of God's constant intimacy in our bodies.

The freedom of the children of God through Baptism reminds us that we can be at peace about our bodies in the constant presence of the Holy Spirit. The war is over thanks to Christ our Savior and Jesus' victory is our joy in how body and spirit can now be in harmony according to God Our Father's Will. What a relief and what an affirmation of our flesh and blood body humanity!

Thank God our bodies are not our enemies in daily life for our humanity is created in God's image and saved from sin and death through Jesus the Son of God made human. The most affirming way God clarifies the sanctity of the human person is by God becoming human in Christ. The Gospel message comes from Jesus with his body filled with the Holy Spirit. In our Holy Communion with Jesus we too are bodies filled with the Holy Spirit which is encompassed in the one Body of Christ. Jesus reveals to us that body and spirit are one in Christ's saving love; the war is over.

In Christ's Harmony,

Fr. Terry