

PASTOR'S COLUMN—NOVEMBER 30, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

One of the mysterious aspects of the conversion faith journey in Christ is facing our need for repentance, namely, admitting our sin and our need for God's mercy. In Christ the Savior we are given the overwhelming mercy of God with emphasis on overwhelming. God's mercy is mysterious because it is always within us and amidst our sin we are continually inundated with God's mercy such that, in God's constant presence we are overwhelmed with God's mercy. The conversion faith journey is our humble admission to God that we love being overwhelmed by God's mercy because our sin makes us sad and God's mercy makes us joy-filled.

Hopefully, we prefer to be joy-filled people and not sad folks because Jesus saves us from the sadness of sin and death. The mystery of God's mercy in Christ is how it so permeates our humanity that we are overwhelmed with this lavish gift of mercy and we succumb to it by being more alert to our need for God's mercy. In particular, the more God's mercy rings true within us, the easier it is for us to share God's mercy with one another. After all, one of our biggest sins is not treating people with mercy; that is, we are too quick to harshly judge some of our neighbors.

The mystery of how God's mercy is constantly working within us is another way to reflect on Holy Communion because oneness in the Body and Blood of Christ is constant. To be one with Christ is to be overwhelmed by God's mercy to the point of more faithfully repenting of our sins and being more deeply healed and freed up to overwhelm one another with mercy. The conversion faith journey in Christ is mysterious in how it stirs us to repentance, but the overwhelming mercy of God constantly calls us to deeper oneness with God and neighbor and we are unwise to minimize its saving impact in our every moment.

In God's Mercy,

Fr. Terry