

PASTOR'S COLUMN—DECEMBER 7, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

There may be times when we might think that God is punishing us especially in those times of accidents, health problems and difficulties with people. However, the Good News of Jesus to the world is that God is not out to punish us but is out to save us. In particular, to save us from our many morbid scenarios we project onto God thinking that God is out to make our lives miserable. Let's get this straight, God is joy in our lives as revealed in Jesus the savior of the world. Any misery we conjure up is our doing, our sin, our lack of faith in God.

We hurt ourselves but it is not God's fault. Lord have mercy on us for thinking otherwise! Through faith in God all is well, period! Any problems or difficulties are our construct because with faith in the Beloved Jesus, we can face all of life with Joy now! Any excuses we think up for not being joyful are a symptom of a lack of faith. The question is whether we have genuine faith. Fleeting faith varies with life's circumstances whereas genuine faith is constant in Christ's faithfulness.

In our desire for Holy Communion with Jesus comes the faith obligation to let go of making God into a punishing God. St. Paul points out to us that God is for us and not against us. Do we have faith in God being for us at all times? If we do, then it is time to be more joyful people in Christ all the time, especially when external circumstances such as accidents, health problems and difficulties with people arise. Our desire to be morbid about live/death is our idea, not God's; it is a symptom of a lack of faith. To dare to be joyful all the time might seem absurd but Jesus' saving love is here now which means there is new life in our midst always and, thus, all is well!

In the Joy of Christ,

Fr. Terry