

PASTOR'S COLUMN—DECEMBER 8, 2014

Dear Parishioners:

The more connected we are with Jesus, the easier it will be for us to love our neighbors. As we “see” Jesus with our hearts in faith, we become more connected to Jesus’ real presence with our neighbors. Oneness with Jesus moves ourselves out of the way of loving our neighbors because no longer do we see our neighbors as people to use to our own advantage especially with regards to pay back. Expecting something in return for loving our neighbors is replaced by the constant oneness of Jesus that fills our hearts. And this deep connectedness with Jesus makes loving our neighbors freely without alternative motives far easier because we have all that we need for peace thanks to Jesus’ presence.

Trusting our connectedness with Jesus requires simplifying our prayer lives, spending more time in silent gazing at Jesus’ presence. No words need to be spoken; simply keep our “eyes” of faith on our beloved savior, Jesus. His all-consuming return gaze does wonders for setting us free from ourselves and opening us to be more charitable to our neighbors, including the least of our neighbors.

Loving our neighbors is not a problem for us when we live Christ’s presence. In the mystery of God’s revelation, being open to a faith-guided connectedness with Jesus transforms our entire outlook on life which includes how we treat the people around us. Simplifying our prayer to the gaze-level of attentiveness to Jesus can empty us of self in a profound way, enlarging us in Christ’s presence to more faithfully love our neighbors.

In Christ’s Gaze,

Fr. Terry