

PASTOR'S COLUMN—DECEMBER 28, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

With a New Year almost upon us, a simple resolution would be to love God more faithfully and let it show it how we are more loving to our neighbors. At first reading that might seem so obvious but we tend to forget at times that the more lovingly faithful we are to God then inevitably we become more loving to our neighbors. Holy Oneness with Christ has a life-changing impact on our distorted views about our neighbors. The thought that God loves every person in the “Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” is a startling sacrament of Eucharist awareness that is proclaimed to us at every Mass. To eat the Body and Blood of Christ is to swallow God’s Love for all people. This is the cost of loving God deeply because then we can’t be selective about which neighbors we love.

It is true that we can love some people more easily than others until we get on the “Lamb of God” level of our Beloved Jesus. Here we notice that Jesus’ love for humanity is on the mercy and forgiveness level. And so more specifically, our New Year’s resolution ought to include something about treating people with more mercy and forgiveness. We cannot avoid this reconciling life-changing direction because it is God’s Will for us. Let us spend some time with “forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us” this New Year. Humbly admitting that we can only be faithful to God’s love for all people in Christ by loving God deeply is a simple and yet life-changing resolution for us as January approaches. This particular resolution continues to remind us that the core of being Jesus’ disciples is mercy and forgiveness.

In Christ’s Life-Changing Love,

Fr. Terry