



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! There is a beautiful passage of scripture that you might be familiar with found in Ecclesiastes Chapter 3. Its verses were made popular years ago by the music group The Byrds and the song Turn! Turn! Turn! It's a great song, but even before it was put to music, the verses of that scripture were beautifully rhythmic. Even just reciting them, one can find order, grace and peace. The words remind us that there is a time for everything under the sun. Which is refreshing news in our own times which are disordered, scattered, disturbing and turning!

All of this comes to mind as I write this week's column. For over the past few weeks, our parish has lived through some intense times. We've celebrated the climax of Jesus life: His Passion, Death and Resurrection. We've marked those greatest of days on our Liturgical Calendar with great Solemnity. What's more, we've welcomed new life into the Church with baptisms with more to come in the weeks, ahead. This coming weekend, we have First Communion, a Wedding and next week, Confirmation. It's been a lot and on top of all this, we had the sudden loss of Deacon Jim Elliott.

Scripture tells us that there is a time for everything under the sun, but in our fallen world, (and yes, this world is fallen!) time runs together and often crashes into itself, with many things happening at once! Such have been our times. A strong reminder of our need for God, order and wisdom. How to live well in busy, full and intense times?

The book of Ecclesiastes is can certainly help to answer that question if we read beyond chapter 3. It can also help to turn to the Saints, those men and women who lived in all sorts of fallen times. Saints are those who learned how to live well. They are wisdom figures for us, witnesses that can teach us.

So in closing, I share a few words of wisdom from saints about time. May they be a benefit to all of us.

From Therese of Lisieux:

If I did not simply live from one moment to another, it would be impossible for me to be patient. But I only look at the present, I forget the past and I take good care not to forestall the future.

From St. Francis DeSales:

Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life: rather, look to them with full hope that as they arise, God whose very own you are, will lead you safely through all things;

and when you cannot stand it God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow; the same understanding Father who cares for you today will take care of you then and every day. He will either shield you from suffering or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at Peace and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers