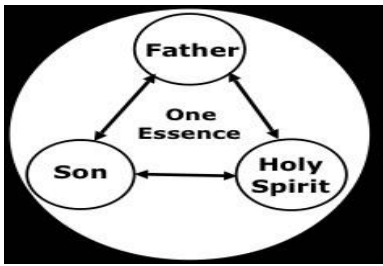


## *From the Vicar's Desk*



*Sometimes we may wonder about our goals or values. We may ask ourselves if we are on the right track. Are my dreams realistic with reference to my family and the time I spend with them? Will God be pleased with my choices? Am I working to my potential? Am I afraid to grow (change)?*

*I shared this story with those at a recent morning Mass: Once upon a time, an Indian boy found a priceless pearl. He knew his worries were over. He would never, again, have to work in his life. **BUT**...when he tried to sell the pearl to the buyers, they put him off. For some unknown reason, none of the buyers wanted to deal with him. In the days that followed, the boy was attacked several times. Suddenly he realized the attacks were the work of the buyers. They wanted to rob him and possibly kill him to get his pearl.*

*He had to choose between the pearl and his life. So, with the buyers' agents looking on, the boy went to the ocean and, from a high bluff, threw the priceless pearl into the sea as far as he could. With that, the attacks stopped, for the buyers no longer sent anyone after him.*

*The story invites us to reflect:*

*When wealth is lost, nothing is lost.*

*When health is lost, something is lost.*

*When character is lost, everything is lost.*

*The story invites us to ask:*

*What hold do material possessions have on me?*

*How much time do I give to my family & parish?*

*Can I be happy and please God, too?*

*Sincerely and in Him—fr.t.*