

From the Vicar's Desk



This is the third week of Lent. This week carries us half way through our journey to the Easter Triduum. "Triduum" is Latin, pronounced, "tree-do-um." It means "three days." The Triduum refers to the three days of: Holy Thursday (night), Good Friday, and the Saturday Easter Vigil (through Easter Sunday night). By the end of this week, we will be midway in our solemn journey to the culmination of the Lenten Season at the "Triduum" ...the three most solemn days of the Church-year. No funerals or weddings are permitted on these sacred days. However, before focusing on the end of the journey, we must see that we get there first! Presently, we are in the process of making that journey. This Lenten journey can readily be compared to our daily journey in life itself. We have begun. We are 'in process.' We are moving to a specific end, to a goal. The direction we take in life, as in our Lenten journey, will be determined by our choices. Will we discipline ourselves against our tendency to be selfish, in order to 'stay the course?' Or will we indulge ourselves? Will we shun responsibilities, promises, resolutions ...and go 'off course' to our own shore of self indulgence, self interest, and self satisfaction? To realize where one should be headed and to make oneself go there IS the challenge of life ...what life and 'freedom of choice' are all about. Each of us is at the helm of our own ship. Therefore, our Lenten journey is only a foreshadowing of the ultimate journey we all are making (one day at a time) to the shores of our eternal (and final) destination. Family, friend, neighbor, co-worker, fellow-parishioner...where we live, play, work, and pray, -- these are the sorts of things that may comprise the sea of life upon which we all navigate. Sometimes the sea of life is calm and peaceful, other times, it is fierce and threatening. Even when the inexplicable tragedy of sudden storms and numbing nightmares seem to overwhelm us, there will always be beacons of light to show us the way ...to get back on course. These beacons are God's graces in life (including His own Son) sent to help us when the storm howls the loudest. The lighthouse, with its beacon, will lead us safely home. It will not always be easy or entertaining, but what of any true value ever is? Look to our Captain, Christ-crucified. He knows the tragedies and nightmares of life firsthand!

He is the light in the darkness.

--fr.t.