

*From a Vicar's Desk*



*Believe it or not, things have been somewhat quiet around the parish office this week. The rectory is so quiet, almost 'dull & dreary.' In the past, this was always a very exciting time... because the Steelers would be passing through the playoff games and, of course, would be in serious contention for the Superbowl. The rectory, like so many of our parishioners' homes, was a-buzz with excitement and nervous anticipation. So, what the heck just happened? For so many years, we were at the top of the heap and, all of a sudden, we play like a bunch of bums... getting hurt, missing tackles, dropping passes, the 'D'fense stopping the run and the pass. Sure, there were a few flashes in greatness, BUT...it just wasn't enough. The sad commentary goes on and on. What did the Steeler-nation do to deserve all of this?*

*This scenario is so much like life itself. Spiritually speaking, we go along the path of life and all seems well. We're at the top of the heap. There's health in the family. There's food a-plenty. Our work and home are secure. Everyone in the clan is, fundamentally, happy. Then...bam! From out of the blue, things seem to begin falling apart. The country shuts down. Someone loses his/her job. Someone else's house gets flooded/seriously damaged. A cherished family member becomes gravely ill. Another family member announces divorce. Teenagers or collegians announce deep discouragement, disenchantment, or, of all things, a change in 'life style.' We look in the mirror and say, 'What the heck is happening?'*

**Such is the cycle of life:** *good times come & good times go. There's no magic formula to life. There's no grand 'deal,' like, "If I am good, God, then I expect you to make everything fair and just for me and my family." Of course, we all know that's not the way it works. All we can do is keep pushing forward, trusting in God. Even Jesus asked, "Let this cup pass." BUT...it didn't. Even He asked, "Why have you forsaken me." BUT...he wasn't. Like Jesus, we have to keep on doing what we know is the right thing to do. Eventually, it will all work out and things will be 'right' again.*

*We can't win the Superbowl of life year in and year out. BUT...we have to keep trying and trusting...no matter what. Though often painful for Him, Jesus never quit. Nor should we. He won for us the crown of victory. It awaits us as long as we don't quit. -fr.t.*