

Pastor's Column

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“The Holy Longing—Part III”

(Fr. Ron Rolheiser begins his book, *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*, with a poem, “The Holy Longing,” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

In April, I invited parishioners to share their thoughts as to how this poem spoke to them.

Enjoy the many and diverse thoughts! May they help you in your daily prayer and reflection.)

“The Holy Longing”

*“Tell a wise person, or else keep silent,
Because the massman will mock it right away.
I praise what is truly alive,
what longs to be burned to death.*

*In the calm water of the love-nights,
where you were begotten, where you have begotten,
a strange feeling comes over you
when you see the silent candle burning.*

*Now you are no longer caught
in the obsession with darkness,
and a desire for higher love-making
sweeps you upward.*

*Distance does not make you falter,
now, arriving in magic, flying
and finally, insane for the light,
you are the butterfly and you are gone.*

*And so long as you haven't experienced
this: to die and so to grow,
you are only a troubled guest
on the dark earth.*

Edith Noel writes: It is hard to decide who the wise person is and who the massman is. Most will have to suffer the massman many times before he finds the wise person.

The effectiveness of a burning candle reveals the longing for the time when you were begotten and where you have begotten.

The desire for higher love making sweeps you up to the heavens.

The soul breaks loose and speeds to God.

Not having experienced this, we are trapped in our humanness on earth.

Flora Fallone reflects: Our life on earth has been given to us by God to journey to God, our Creator.

In our innermost self, our true self, is where God lives in us. It is here that God has placed this holy longing. It is also in our innermost self where God waits and longs for us to tell us how very much God loves us and desires for us to share in His eternal glory.

We live this belief and conviction of soul with others who share this same life journey, and not be troubled or bothered by those who choose a lesser vision of life.

Life is a journey through peaks and valleys, sorrows and joys, and it is in these experiences that we learn to die to self, in order to be regenerated into a newer and holier version of the creation God intends us to become on our journey towards Him.

A caterpillar must die to its old form (the old person), in order to be reborn into a beautiful butterfly.

To journey through life without this simple understanding, is to live a life devoid of hopeful expectation and joyful fulfillment into what God intends for us to become—a beautiful and unique creation in God's likeness and image, a part of who God is!