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Pastor's Column

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Waking the Sleeping Soul

Albert Schweitzer, theologian, musician, medical missionary who was born in 1875 and died in 1965, wrote these words:

“You know of the disease in Central Africa called sleeping sickness...There also exists a sleeping sickness of the soul.

Its most dangerous aspect is that one is unaware of its coming. That is why you have to be careful. As soon as you notice the slightest sign of indifference, the moment you become aware of the loss of a certain seriousness, of longing, of enthusiasm and zest, take it as a warning.

You should realize that your soul suffers if you live superficially. People need times in which to concentrate, when they can search their inmost selves. It is tragic that most men have not achieved this feeling of self-awareness.

And finally, when they hear the inner voice they do not want to listen anymore. They carry on as before so as not to be constantly reminded of what they have lost.

But as for you, resolve to keep a quiet time both in your homes and here within these peaceful walls when the bells ring on Sundays. Then your souls can speak to you without being drowned out by the hustle and bustle of everyday life.”

As we continue our celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection, may we find time to withdraw and reflect, at least a few minutes each day, to become more conscious of the sights, sounds, and rhythms of life all around us. Let's not “fall asleep at the wheel” and be dulled by all the activity around us and miss the Presence of Life, Hope, and New Beginnings that is Jesus, the Risen Lord.

Jesus died and rose to bring us to life, not only after we die, but in this present moment!

F. Mike