

## Pastor's Column

Rev. Michael Ratajczak  
michaelr@stmoside.org  
758-4100 x100

### A Potpourri of Prayerful Reflections

*When we honestly ask ourselves which persons in our lives mean the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand.*

*The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness...*

*That is a friend who cares.*

—**Rev. Henri Nouwen**

*There will be no peace among the peoples of the world without peace among the world religions.*

*There will be no peace among the world religions without peace among the Christian churches.*

—**Rev. Hans Kung**

*How baffling you are, O Church, and yet how I love you! How you have made me suffer, and yet how much I owe you! I should like to see you destroyed, and yet I need your presence. You have given me so much scandal and yet have made me understand sanctity. I have seen nothing in the world more compromised and more false, and yet I have touched nothing more pure, more generous, more beautiful. How often I have wanted to shut the doors of my soul to you, and how often I have prayed to die in the safety of your arms. No, I cannot free myself from you, because I am you, and where would I go?*

—**Carlo Carreto**

*Cancer is so limited! It cannot cripple love. It cannot shatter hope. It cannot corrode faith. It cannot destroy peace. It cannot kill friendship. It cannot suppress memories. It cannot silence courage. It cannot invade the soul. It cannot steal eternal life. It cannot conquer the Spirit.*

—**Anonymous**

*Newness is exciting but not always easy to accept. It often takes a great deal of faith to accept change in life.*

*But then again, newness and change may be one of the few times in life that we really get the chance to believe that God is everywhere, even where we've never been before.*

—**Sr. Joan Chittister**

*F. Mike*