

Pastor's Column

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Deficit Spending

I share with you the blog of STM Parishioner, David Berry:

“Though we’ve got still three more months to enjoy 2011, my personal theme and takeaway from this year has already become clear to me. Namely, that deficit spending, doesn’t work for me. I am not speaking of financial mismanagement, debt ceilings, or monetary policy of any kind. I am speaking of my attempts over the last nine months to activate and extend my creative self at times when I did not possess the resources to do so.

What I have learned this year is that there is a line dividing my higher, creative self and my lower, surviving self. When I am operating below the line, it is because I am in need of renewal, refreshment, restoration. When I am operating above the line I am capable of creativity, energy, extension.

The awareness I have gained is that I am not very gracious to myself when I am below the line and expect that I should be above it. Put another way, when I need to focus on renewal I need to focus on renewal; to focus on getting back to the line before I can again cross over it and above it.”

As I reflected upon David’s words, I thought: “You can’t give what you ain’t got!” (Excuse the poor English.)

For us, who are Disciples of the Lord Jesus, we need that renewal, refreshment, and restoration time in order to live as our higher self.

This means taking time on a daily basis for some prayer, quiet time, reflection, and meditation. We need also to be actively involved in the life of our Faith Community by participating in the Sacramental Life of the Church, especially in celebrating the Eucharist on a weekly basis.

There are no shortcuts and no magic bullets. When we need to focus on renewal, we need to focus on renewal. And what we learn over time is that this can not be sporadic. It needs to be part of our daily routine, just like diet and exercise.

May David’s words remind all of us to seek our higher selves!

Fr. Mike