

Pastor's Column

God Is the Sea

During these Great Fifty Days of Easter, as we spend some time in contemplation, we naturally reflect on the ups and downs of life, on our successes and our failures, and on our joys and sorrows.

The following prayer, "A Prayer to the God of Ebb and Flow," is taken from Fr. Henri Nouwen's book, *A Cry for Mercy*. May this prayer help to set the stage for your meditation and contemplation!

Dear Lord, today I thought of the words of Vincent Van Gogh: "It is true there is an ebb and a flow, but the sea remains the sea." You are the sea. Although I experience many ups and downs in my emotions and often feel great shifts and changes in inner life, you remain the same. Your sameness is not the sameness of a rock, but the sameness of a faithful lover. Out of your love I came to life; by your love I am sustained; and to your love I am always called back. There are days of sadness and days of joy; there are moments of failure and moments of success; but all of them are embraced by your unwavering love. My only real temptation is to doubt in your love, to think of myself as beyond the reach of your love, to remove myself from the healing radiance of your love. To do these things is to move into the darkness of despair. O Lord, sea of love and goodness, let me not fear too much the storms and winds of daily life, and let me know that there is ebb and flow but that the sea remains the sea. Amen.

Fr. Mike