

## Pastor's Column

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### Birthday Musings

*This week-end I celebrate my 65th birthday. I share with you my Pastor's Column that I wrote when I turned 60. Has it been five years already?*

*As I reread the column, I realized that what I feel at 65 is what I felt when I became 60, only the feelings are even more intensified!*

*I pray that I will have the opportunity to share these words once again when I turn 70!*

As I celebrate my 60th birthday today, please allow me a chance to muse a bit!

The worst "decade turnover" for me was 30! I went into a depression that lasted for weeks. I thought I was so old. Can you believe?

I grew up in the era of the slogan, "Don't trust anybody over 30!" All of sudden, I was 30 and I realized that I did want to be trusted. A shift in "worldview" was taking place in me.

Then one day I just snapped out of it and remembered how young I really was and how much more life still, hopefully, awaited me.

Since then, each "decade turnover" has been a remarkable gift... 40 was great... 50 even better!

Today I turn 60, another set of thirty years. Each decade of life has been an adventure and a joy. Every year has had its challenges, but, bottom line, because of my faith in God, in and through Jesus Christ, I am thoroughly enjoying and celebrating the gift of life.

I am thrilled with the ride! I am grateful for what has been and I look forward to what will be.

It is such a gift to be able to view the world through 30-year-old eyes, and then look at the same world through 60-year-old eyes, and see things so differently. The life experience that we accumulate over the years brings such a richness in how we see and understand the world around us and the people in it.

We live a Mystery that is totally incomprehensible. We find ourselves on this speck of dust called Earth within a Universe that is beyond our measuring and our understanding.

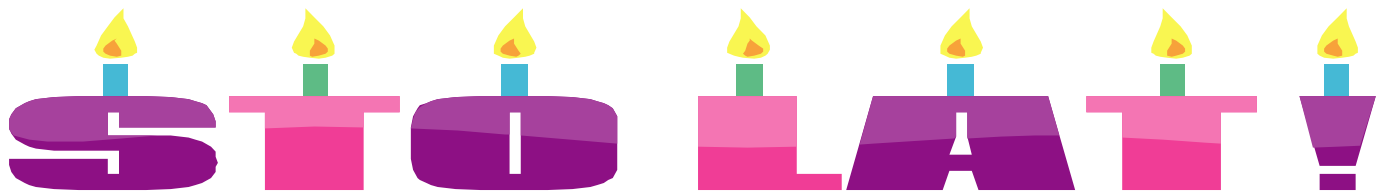
Yet we proclaim a belief in a "Source of All Being" that knows and loves each one of us and has counted every hair on our head.

The challenge, in the midst of our everyday trials and tribulations, is to recognize the Mystery, embrace it, and celebrate it on a daily basis. Our faith gives us the words and the rituals to celebrate this Mystery, and to keep Mystery as the center of our lives as we make our way Home.

I share with you the words of a poster that I once saw. These words capture what I feel today:

*I cry at least once a day, not because I am sad, but because the world is so beautiful!*

*Fr. Mike*



May you live one hundred years!