

**Pastor's Message**  
**By Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano**  
**Jan. & Feb. 2007**

*Human Healing and Community Life*

The rhythm, the variety, the range of the liturgical seasons are astonishing. The liturgical year keeps our attention because it leaves out none of the substantial human experiences.

January and February of 2007 are a case in point. We go from the star and gifts of Epiphany to the ashes and agony of Lent. We celebrate new life in the baptism of Christ and renewal in the Transfiguration. Our liturgical colors change from white to green to violet. We focus on loss and fear, on journey and discipleship, on temptation and beatitudes. It is all there. It is in all of us. It is life in all its risk and richness.

We celebrate together these moments in our worship. We do this as a community because all of us have experienced all of this. We know pain and yearning, discovery and wandering, soaring success and bitter failure. We have missed none of it. Nor does the Liturgy miss it. The Liturgy calls us through the words and life of Christ to note and celebrate the words and life of each of our lives. God is not human only in a human body and a human nature but in human experience and human feeling.

Every genuine encounter with Christ is an encounter with ourselves and others because God has become incarnate in a human heart.

Anthony