

Pastor's Message

Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano

JAN./FEB. 2010

BEGINNINGS

Without beginnings we perish.

Life is not a continuum but rather a series of deaths and rebirths. Spring dies; youth passes; joy does not last; the future does not respond to our expectations; health is not permanent; absence is often not of our choosing; extinction is inevitable, for all life and even for non-biological matter.

Yet nothing fails to be reborn. Einstein tells us that energy is never destroyed and matter is, of course, a form that energy takes. Spring returns; youth and joy and the future are a matter of the heart and of choice rather than the passage of time; health is resilient and absence makes presence more intense; we pass from this life but life is not taken away, merely changed.

The entire Gospel is a ringing proclamation of our freedom and our destiny, a charter that tells us there is something immortal about us, that time is an aspect of eternity and that God cares for us. We become the sparrows in God's kingdom, the lilies in God's field, the sheep of God's shepherding, none of us lost, all of us found in ways we cannot articulate or measure. We know that there are loves in our lives that never end, dreams that never vanish, hopes that are never forsaken, memories that give us life in new and endless ways

We have been made for beginnings. All the things that die, return in new and unpredictable ways.

As we mark the beginning of a new year and a new decade in a new millennium, let us, with awe and gratitude, contemplate the majesty of time, the magnitude of creation, the miracle of endless life that comes to us from a Source we never comprehend or control.

Happy New Year, my friends!
Anthony