

Dear Parishioners,

For those of you who have computers we have a new website; it is <http://www.st-catherine-geoa.org>. I want to thank Brian Drendel, our "Webmaster" who has been so generous with his time and creative skills in putting the website together, and Tim Hughes, owner of AT Cybersystems for donating the cyberspace for our website. It all seems so ethereal to me. I don't know how it works, but it does.

Our new website is beautiful. It will be a wonderful means of communication with the community because it includes all the events going on in the parish, pictures of events, important updates, bulletin information and letters; in short, you will know about what is happening here.

Communication, no matter what kind of tools we use is always, difficult. From the time cave dwellers learned to draw on walls the stories of their hunting expeditions to the high school students sending text messages on their cell phones, communication has had the same purpose and difficulty. The purpose of communication is obvious; we have something to say to someone. Communication is difficult, though, because it demands work. Whether we're gossiping about a neighbor or giving a speech the message has to be formulated into words. This process takes creativity, energy, and time.

Communication also demands listening; someone needs to hear what is being said. Of course the one who hears the message has to ask, "Do I listen, or do I tune the speaker out?" So, listening is work too. But that is not all there is to the communication process.

A response also has to be made. We see images of cave art on the internet but perhaps we might be more interested in looking at other kinds of images. The artist's message is lost on us. The television is turned off during the State of the Union address because we might be more interested in looking at something else, let's say - cave art. Communication breaks down when we refuse to listen and respond.

When we hear truth being spoken we must respond to it, even if that response is painful. Truth can be painful when the message inspires us to

change our lives. Change has consequences we cannot foresee. Sometimes we cannot understand what the truth means; it doesn't always make sense. And sometimes the truth hurts so much we choose to ignore it.

By creating our website we are trying to communicate an important truth that has long been ignored; our parish is a vital and sacred part of our lives. Through our parish the spiritual story of our journey to God's kingdom is told. We're trying to say something here. How well will you all listen? What kind of response will you make? Please do not let our message get lost in cyberspace.

In joyful hope,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Seigel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Tim Seigel,  
Pastor