

Dear Parishioners,

I have a photograph of me when I am about ten years old and I am holding my three year old brother in my arms. I was a skinny string-bean of a kid barely strong enough to hold him. In my eyes there is this strange sense of determination. I remember when my grandmother took this picture. We were visiting her in Minneapolis and David and I were the last kids to get in the car. I picked David up and Grandma snapped the photo. I also remember the love I had, and still do have, for my brother. Perhaps that look of determination is also a look of fierce loyalty, and love. Perhaps I knew that Mom and Dad couldn't wait to get on the road and that David and I were going to be in hot water unless we got into the car right now, but Grandma just had to take that picture.

When I look at that photograph I see an image of home. Home is a place of determination, loyalty and love. Home is a place where we know we are loved, a place where we love in such a tender, yet committed way that no force on earth, except the human will, can remove it, or cause that love to cease. Home is where we can be so comfortable that we can be intimately ourselves even in times of stress, knowing that we will always be accepted and loved because we are who we are.

St. Catherine of Genoa is my home now. In many ways I feel that powerful sense of determination, loyalty and love. It is imperfect yet, every home is. But what I feel for this parish is very real, it is sincere. St. Catherine of Genoa is *OUR* home now, and we live together in this place of sacred intimacy, devotion, worship and praise; this place of sacrifice and commitment; this place we call our spiritual home. But home is also a process because in time we

learn to be at home with each other, and this is not always an easy thing to do.

I have made mistakes and have upset people. Rumors have been started, many of them false causing people to have wrong perceptions about me, or about the work of being your pastor. I understand: rumors and misperceptions, these are unfortunate realities of what home is all about. We have to work through these things together.

This Fall I am going to start calling your homes to ask if I can pay you a visit. I want to get to know you better. I would very much appreciate it if you could get to know me better too. I am not out to solicit money, nor am I going to ask anyone to join a committee or to do anything but just visit with me for a few minutes. I'm not asking anyone to cook a meal or to spend the day cleaning house. Martha (the friend of Jesus) missed the best part of Jesus' visit when she was too busy to sit and talk with him like her sister Mary did. More than anything else I would like for us to be at home with each other, and for you to know that I care.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel,
Pastor