

Dear Parishioners,

One of the questions I have enjoyed asking some of the children in the parish is, "How do you like being back in school?" Early on in September most of the kids didn't sound too enthused about being back in the classroom. Of course the five-year-olds couldn't wait to be in kindergarten, but I have a lot of empathy for the older kids; the beginning of the school year was always pretty hard for me. But now that kids have been back for a month or longer I see them just shrug their shoulders when I ask them about being back in school, and most of the time I hear, "Oh it's alright I guess." While the response is still not overwhelmingly joyous, I can see that most of the students are accepting of the fact that school is here and that means homework, and long days in class, but that's the way it is. This is the routine, and if anything should break that routine it's usually more of a traumatic event. The daily routine is, more often than not, much more acceptable than a traumatic event.

Acceptance is a necessary yet difficult attitude if we want to make it through the day with any kind of peace of mind. All too often we look at all the things that might go wrong in the day; all the interruptions, all the tragedies, the bad news, and oddities that just don't make a lot of sense to us, and we tell ourselves, "It's not supposed to be this way." If I had complete control over my entire day it would probably be extremely boring, but it would be my day and that is what would matter. Life just doesn't work this way, and the lesson from this week's readings is that we have no real choice but to accept whatever comes our way because God has his hand in everything that happens to us and if we cannot accept that fact then we end up working against God, or maybe we think God is working against us. At the end of the day it is more important for us to consider how God has spoken to us than it is for us to get upset because things didn't go our way.

This is a lesson I have struggled greatly to learn, and I am happy to report that I am making progress over the last twenty-two months since I've been here. What I have learned is that acceptance is a willful, conscious decision rooted in prayer and trust. By willfully choosing to let God be more in control than I am, I have been amazed to find a much deeper level of peace in my life than I ever thought possible.

In joyful hope,

Fr. Tim Seigel