

Dear Friends.

Next week I am going to be gone and Fr. Bill Budden, from Byron, will be here to take my place. So, you will not be reading a letter from me. There will, however, be a letter written by a parishioner who would like to share a part of her story with you; it is a story of personal conversion. To give a witness of this type takes a tremendous amount of faith and honesty and so her story deserves our careful attention.

This week we hear the message that if we have faith the size of a mustard seed, we could tell a mulberry tree to uproot itself and then plant itself in another spot. Why we would want to see something like that is beyond me, but I suppose if anyone really wanted to do that he or she could at least give it a good try.

To experience a change of heart, or metanoia as the Greeks called it, is an entirely different matter. When we truly examine our own lives, we sometimes recognize that there is a real need to change, but we just do not know how. We might think we don't have enough faith to live up to what God expects of us, but we do.

When God gives us the gift of faith, we are given more than we need. This does not mean that we will become instant saints, or that we will be completely free of the pains of growing in our faith. As one friend tells me, "Living a Christian life is the hardest thing in the world to do." Just read the gospels and you will see how difficult it is to live as a disciple.

Despite the fact that we struggle to live our faith, God has given us more faith than we need in order to live as Christians. What we find is that when we put our faith to good use in our lives, when we are prayerful, generous, compassionate and trusting, we find that we become the Mulberry tree Jesus talks about. When we take that leap of faith to live as Christian disciples, we discover that we bear good fruit.

Next week you will hear a story of one parishioner who has had that metanoia experience. I hope you will find it helpful to you.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel