

Dear Friends,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the members of our Garden Club for the beautiful garden that was created this year. It added tremendous beauty to our grounds. I also want to thank them for the bake sale that was conducted last weekend. I look forward to what the garden is going to look like next year.

In one sense it is sad to see the plants dying off. The glorious colors that adorned the garden seemed to animate the plants making them almost bigger than life. Now, however, as the brilliant reds, yellows and other colors of the rainbow have given way to brown dormancy, we are reminded not only of the cycles of life in nature, but also of our own mortality.

We have to remember that most of the plants in the garden are perennials. With proper care we can trust that next year our garden will be even more beautiful as the new plants mature.

Life in God's kingdom is very much like a garden. We have moments in our lives when we blossom without our even knowing it. And others respond to what they see in us with a sense of awe and we might not even know why.

We also have moments in our lives filled with regret, sorrow or other types of pain, and in that dormancy we wonder why nobody seems to notice.

But the spark of life lies mysteriously deep within our souls. It never dies. It always brings the promise of a life that in every moment is truly sacred and unspeakably beautiful. As the season of fall gives way to winter and we look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ our Lord, we must experience a dormancy that looks like, and sometimes feels like death. This season is, however, just a moment in time; a moment that seems to hide the beauty of our lives. Our faith gives us the assurance that a new cycle of life will continue to bless God's kingdom with his life-giving grace.

In joyful hope,
Fr. Tim Seigel