

“Nothing Can Separate us from the Love of Christ”

Romans 8:31b-39

There are those times in your life when time seems irrelevant. There are days that drag on and seem like they will never end. And then there are days which draw to a close and you don't know where the day went. The same holds true when you begin speaking about years. It seems like this year went so fast, but then I look back and I see so many things which happened and those times seem like a long time ago.

I look back at pictures of my new grandson, Oliver, who was born on November 24. That day seems like so long ago. He has only grown a little bit, but I look at him now and I can't believe the change. It is commonly said that every year seems like it is getting shorter, but there are still 24 hours in each day.

As I now have one daughter with a grandson and another married and working as a nurse at Blessing, I look back on their years at St. James School, and that seems like such a long time ago. It is amazing how time separates us from the events of our life. I think back on my first year of college and realize that I'm celebrating my 40th high school graduation this coming year. I took a typewriter to college. I love teaching the youth and having them ask what kind of cellphone I had when I was young.

What is even more telling is when I try and use examples from history. These are children who were born well after 9/11. That event does not have the impact on them as it does for those of us who watched it on TV. And for those of us who watched it on TV, it doesn't have the same impact or meaning as it does for those who lived or worked in New York.

Much in the same way, the assassination of John F. Kennedy is something I only know from history. I am separated from that event because I was not alive at the time, I do not have the visceral emotional memory of knowing exactly

where I was when I heard that news. I am separated from that, and the more years that pass, the farther those events fade into the peripheral vision of history.

That's the thing about the death and resurrection of Jesus – nothing separates us from the love of Christ. And nothing separates us from that event in history. Thousands of years have passed and you are just as forgiven of your sins as the apostle John who stood at the foot of the cross. The promise of the resurrection of the dead is just as much for you as it was for the women who entered the tomb on Easter morning.

The promise, the reality that nothing in all creation can separate you from the love of God is on full display in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. No matter how many years pass, the cross and empty grave of Jesus is the one single, central event to which all of human history is connected.

Adam has the right to enter into the wedding feast of Christ and His bride the Church because the Son of God was promised to come and crush the head of Satan. Abraham has the right to sit at the wedding feast of Christ because God

credited his faith in the coming Messiah as righteousness. You are invited to the wedding feast. As Jesus says, “Blessed are those servants who stay dressed for action and keep their lamps burning.”

No matter how much time remains until Christ returns, His love for you will not fade away; the washing away of your sins will not fade away; the promise of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting will not diminish or be separated from you in any way. On the contrary, as St. Paul says, “We are closer now to our salvation than ever before.”

Tonight we turn the page on the calendar and mark off another year of time. This year may go fast, or it may go slow. As God’s people, we long for the day when time will truly be irrelevant. In the timelessness of eternity, in the Feast which has no end, in the Wedding Banquet of Christ and His bride the Church a day will be like 1000 years and 1000 years will be like a day, and just like now, nothing will separate us from the love of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.