

+ 28 March 2012

My dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the peace of the Lord and the love of His Mother be with you!

Hailing from the Great State of Texas, the notion of four, complete seasons was new to me. After 11 winters in the Midwest, I have a new appreciation of the cyclic nature of it all. A lush and warm summer brings an autumn of slow decline, though one steeped in beauty and grace. Winter brings death and dormancy, along with bitter cold. Spring brings warmth and the promise of new life. As we emerge from Lent and approach Holy Week, the turn of seasons has spoken to my heart.

### **A SALSA LESSON**

Have you ever had really good salsa? The kind crafted from fresh tomatoes and onions, just-picked peppers, cilantro, and limes? A few years ago, one of my favorite preachers considered that all of these things are phenomenal in and of themselves; but, mixed together and brought directly from the Earth to the table, are truly a taste of heaven. He went on to posit that their goodness comes only from the fact that all of these ingredients were once thriving, living organisms.

Have you ever thought about this? As someone who is trying to reclaim his body from the grip of fast-food and over-processed food, I really have. Anything that was recently alive is nourishing; anything that never was, is not. This, as the preacher above notes, explains the nutritional deficiency of a Twinkie – it was never alive!

### **DYING TO LIVE**

Perennial plants (tulips, daffodils, and the like) offer a kind of case study in “paschal mechanics”: bulbs are buried in the ground during the autumn; they endure the freezing death of winter, and they emerge as things of beauty in the spring. Like the ingredients of our salsa, they die to give life.

What part of us needs to die, so that we might really live?

The glory of these 40 days of Lent is in discovering what really matters. In our fasting, we have made space. In our prayer, we have been filled with the things of God. In our alms-giving, we selflessly give of ourselves in love for a world in need. As we near the end of our Lenten journey and approach the Paschal Triduum, what part of us might we empty out at the foot of the Cross? What part of us might we let die with Christ, so that we might really live with Him?

May we be willing to leave aside all that distracts us, all that consumes us, and all that keeps us from the promise of Spring. May we be willing to let go of all that is not of God and for God. May we be willing to die so that we might really live.

Assuring you a remembrance in my prayers and asking God's every blessing upon you, may I remain:

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rudy Reyes Jr.

*p.s. This is the sixth (of eight) installments in our Lenten Series which will conclude on Easter Wednesday. I welcome and invite your feedback and conversation; be in touch!*

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**Rudy Reyes Jr.**

President

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*Faites ce qui est nécessaire pour obtenir et maintenir la paix de l'âme;  
cherchez Dieu seul et son bon-plaisir.*

*-- B. Guillaume Joseph Chaminade*

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