

SAID ED February 12, 2012

Wholeness

You have no doubt noticed that we are now publishing our bulletin in color! Someone remarked that we must be doing quite well financially if we can afford to do this. Here's the story: Our bulletin is printed each week by Liturgical Publications of Cromwell, CT. The cost of the bulletin is born by those businesses which advertise each on the last two pages of the publication. The bulletin company recently asked us to sign another two year contract which is providing color copy. Your patronage of our advertisers makes this possible without cost to the parish. So please, check the bulletin to find good reputable and dependable vendors who support our church through their advertising. It's a win win situation.

While I am speaking about patronizing generous businesses, I want to thank Casa Larga Vineyards, Rochester Beer Distributors, Compagnie, McArdyle's, and T.K.'s Pizzeria for their part in making our Wine and Beer tasting party such a success! We do appreciate your support!

As I have written here before, I really appreciate Fr Richard Rohr's writings on spirituality and faith. He has a great way of integrating his Franciscan heritage with a love of all God's creation. His words often speak to my heart. This week I share with you some thoughts that he has on the quest for wholeness or as we might also say, holiness.

In writing about the wisdom that comes in the second half of life he writes: "Unless you let the truth of life teach you on its own terms, unless you develop some concrete practices for recognizing and overcoming your dualistic mind, you will remain in the first half of life forever—as most humanity has up to now. In the first half of life, you cannot work with the imperfect, nor can you accept the magic sense of life, which finally means that you cannot love anything or anyone at any depth. Nothing is going to change in history as long as most people are merely dualistic, 'either-or' thinkers. Such splitting and denying leaves us at the level of mere information.

Whole people see and create wholeness wherever they go; split people see and create splits in everything and everybody. We are meant to see in wholes and no longer just in parts. Yet we get to the whole by falling *down* into the messy parts—so many times, in fact, that we long and thirst for the wholeness and fullness of all things, including ourselves. I promise you this unified field is the only and lasting meaning of *up*." Adapted from *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*, pp. 150-151

We are all made in the "image and likeness of God." Remember that from our catechism days? Well, God has no parts, God is one, loving and ever present. As we go on our journey of life we slowly come to see God in everything and we realize that if we have the eyes to see and the ears to hear, God is speaking to us all the time. This journey takes time, but fortunately for us, God is also All Patient. Holiness is about becoming a "whole person," integrating within ourselves all those parts of life that we tend to separate, segregate and subjugate. Perhaps this is what St Ignatius of Antioch meant when he said: "The glory of God is a human being fully alive!"

Have a good week.
