



## FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Hello! Today I am offering a selection of thoughts, prayers, and insights that have come my way from parishioners as well as a variety of other sources.

At the moment, I am reading a biography of Albert Einstein, my favorite “Theoretical Physicists” and ran across this quotation that I wanted to share. **“Subtle is the Lord, malicious he is not.”** Einstein was not a religious man but remained highly respectful of the marvels of the universe.

Another favorite of mine is a poem by St. Teresa of Avila, **“Growing Older”**.

### GROWING OLDER

Lord, You know better than I  
that I am growing older and will someday be old.  
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking  
I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.  
Release me from craving to  
straighten out everybody’s affairs.  
Make me thoughtful but not moody;  
helpful but not bossy.  
With my vast store of wisdom,  
it seems a pity not to use it all;  
but You know, Lord,  
that I want a few friends at the end.  
Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details;  
give me wings to get to the point.  
Seal my lips on my aches and pains;  
they are increasing, and love of rehearsing them  
is becoming sweeter as the years go by.  
I dare not ask for improved memory,  
but for a growing humility and a lessening cock-sureness  
when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others.  
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.  
Keep me reasonably sweet, for a sour old person  
is one of the crowning works of the devil.  
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places  
and talents in unexpected people;  
and give, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen. *(by St. Teresa of Avila)*

This past October I was on retreat at Sacred Heart Retreat House in Sedalia, CO. It is a wonderful property and retreat house to spend time in prayer. I found taped next to the copier the following reflection, titled **“At Day’s End.”**

- ◆ Is anyone happier because you passed his way? Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
- ◆ The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through. Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word to you?
- ◆ Can you say tonight in parting, of a day that’s slipping fast, that you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
- ◆ Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said?
- ◆ Does the one whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
- ◆ Did you waste the day or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent? Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
- ◆ As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say, “You earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?”

*(written by John Hall and copied for Good Samaritan Health Center’s “Vital Signs.”)*

We will be welcoming family members, parishioners, and guests to celebrate Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am. The Thanksgiving Day collection is being earmarked for the Catholic Charities Afghan Refugee Program. Thanks for your generous support.

Next Sunday we begin our prayerful season of Advent. May we take the time to prepare spiritually for the upcoming celebration of our Savior’s birth.

God bless you in counting your blessings, not the calories, this Thanksgiving day!

*Fr. Mike Vacup*