

A Time of Change-Fr. Jim

It hardly seems possible but forty years ago Alvin Toffler wrote a book that I read called "Future Shock." It was widely read and sold over six million copies. Toffler's basic thrust back then was that society was experiencing an accelerated rate of technological and social change, often leaving people disconnected and disoriented. Imagine what Toffler would think now forty years later.

We are a part of the Church, but also we are part of a society and world that is still filled with constant changes. We bring that reality with us wherever we go. We don't leave this cultural reality of change at the church door. Yet despite all of this we find ourselves searching for stability in our church, but even that reality has changed and continues to change. We often are experiencing the challenge of this constantly shifting reality, but it is also an opportunity to remember what truly anchors us. As we face changes in our parish, in our Mass schedule, and with our new pastoral leader, I would invite us to reflect on these questions below in the next few days of our Lenten journey of conversion (i.e. change), keeping in mind that there are passages in scripture that allude to **even** God changing (Then the Lord spoke to Samuel: "I **regret** having made Saul king, for he has turned from me and has not kept my command." I Samuel 15:10 or "When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, **he repented** of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out." Jonah 3:10).

What are some threads-personal beliefs & convictions-that you hold onto in your life and help to anchor you amidst the shifting sands of change?

What helps you hold onto them?

What makes it difficult to hold on?

What inner resources serve to sustain you?

The Way It Is by William Stafford

There's a thread you follow.
It goes among things that change.
But it doesn't change.
People wonder about what you are pursuing.
You have to explain about the thread.
But it is hard for others to see.
While you hold it you can't get lost.
Tragedies happen; people get hurt or die;
and you suffer and get old.
Nothing you do can stop time's unfolding.
You don't ever let go of the thread.