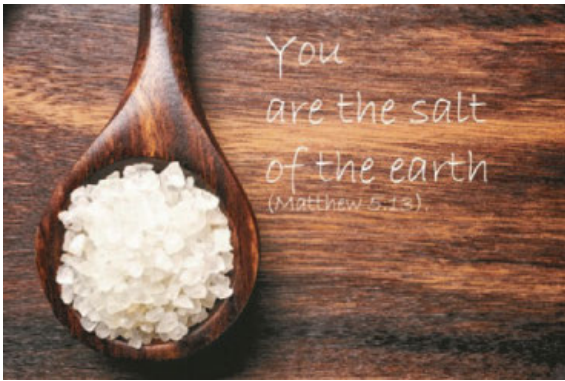


## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste it is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.” Mt 5:13

Human life depends on the presence of salt. Salt is the only trace mineral that is found in every cell in the human body, without it we would cease to exist.

The salt in our Christian DNA comes from the fact that we have been salted, i.e., given life, by Christ. He is the essential presence in every cell of our body. Without Christ our capacity to give witness to the Gospel, our novelty, our zeal, our very life would cease to exist.

It is possible that the salt in us – the presence of Christ – loses its taste. It is still there, but it is of no use. Why does this happen?

Salt loses its taste for one reason: exposure to moisture or the elements. Thus, Christianity can also be diluted by exposure to the elements around us – thoughts and opinions, the optics of the media, or assimilation to the mainstream culture. We live in the world, but are not of the world. Salt loses its taste when it becomes just like everything else around it. When this happens the novelty, the taste, the witness to the presence of something life-giving within us – Christ, Eternal Life, Faith, Hope, Charity, Humility... is gradually dissipated.

In Jesus day, when salt was ruined it was mixed with gypsum and was then used to seal roofs. The roof was often used as a room or gathering space, and was therefore literally ‘trampled underfoot.’

The word gypsum means ‘bitter’. Our being salt – that is our witness to Christ, and our zeal for the Gospel – can gradually lose its flavor in the measure in which we become embittered. Our life can take one of two paths. There is the path to life or the path to death.

The path to life means our seeing the goodness of God in everything. It means understanding that God is writing a history of salvation with the events of our life. The psalmist experienced this when he exclaimed “Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.”

The path to death on the other hand means becoming hard-hearted, embittered, truculent, and narcissistic. It is a path where complaining, rivalry, petty-mindedness, lack of forgiveness and resentment begin to take hold.

The great Good News for us today is that Christ is giving us taste and meaning, he is the one who wants to give flavor to our life. His DNA becomes our DNA. We can experience it at the Liturgy today.

Fr. Sean