



Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor
Minister of Word and Sacrament

September 2, 2009

Cry, Cry, Cry

Dear Readers,

This is the first week of school for many children. I have come to learn that by the time children go to kindergarten they are old hands at the first day of school routine. Many children these days cut their teeth on the whole school experience by going to pre-school.

We run an active pre-school here at Good Shepherd. This has been the first day of school for many children. We do our best to make kids comfortable by having an open house experience where they can spend time in the classroom with their Moms and Dads present. The hope is that by having been in a familiar situation, come that very first day, they are comfortable.

But...there seems to be something about that first time when Mom or Dad or Grandma walks away and leaves them here at school. It is a moment for crying! Moms cry as they leave, but the little ones who have been left at school they cry, cry, and cry.



Today it seemed they were all crying at once. It seemed that way, because, in fact, they were all crying at once. Now I know from experience that is part of it being the first day. In a few days it gets better. In a few days the little dears start to realize that Mom or Dad does come back for them. They also get accustomed to the teacher, and the room, and the other children. For many, that first day of school is very first time they have spent much time with another whole group of kids—it is traumatic to the little guys, and understandably so.

As I sit in my study and hear the persistent crying, it melts my heart. I want them to feel safe. I want them to feel secure. I want them to have a great experience of school. I want them to meet at this church an atmosphere of love and the presence of God. I have to remind myself that such will come. It may not feel like it now, but such will come. In time and over the course



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of the next few weeks things will settle down. The children will fall into a routine and they will make both new friends and new discoveries that will bring them such joy.

If only there was a way to communicate that to them now in a way that they could hear and comprehend. Alas, we can try but spend our time wiping tears, giving hugs, and speaking assurances that it will be okay.

Perhaps this is how God is with us. Perhaps right now, in our existence, we are as those children at the first day of school. We struggle and are frightened and really unsure about what is happening to us. We cannot envision that we will know friendship and security and discovery. We can only see today...but God points us to see and trust in the joy of tomorrow. Let us rejoice in the God who wipes our tears, holds us, and raises us up to a kind of life that is beyond any joy we can imagine.

Blessings,
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