

**It is one of life's most precious gifts:  
the opportunity and the privilege to begin anew.  
My failures will not destroy or damn me.  
When I truly repent they will drive me back to God  
where I will find forgiveness and acceptance.**

*"Great Here I Am"*

Dear Parishioners,

Easter, 2016

In the course of living the gift of life which God has given to each of us, there are events which can only be described as mysteries. For a long time I have been faced with a mystery. What was I thinking and how could I justify using Saint Peter funds which were not mine to use? I accept absolute responsibility for my actions and am ready to face the consequence of serving time in prison for my actions.

But the mystery remains why? Very clear expectations of moral conduct have come from my family, the Marine Corps, and from God's gift of Ordination. What went wrong? I cannot honestly answer that question at this time. I know that what I did was wrong, but I am struggling to explain it to myself, yet alone to anyone else. With the help of Father Joe, Father Matt, Father Robert, my family, medical professionals and the prayers of many of you I am hopeful that I will find an answer and yet become the priest worthy of God's gift.

I am anguished that I have let so many people down, and even worse, made some question their faith. While you might understandably lose faith in me, never lose faith in the caring and loving God that sustains us all, particularly in times of trial and error. The Archbishop, while understandably disappointed in me, has not ceased to be extremely kind and pastoral. I will be forever grateful.

Twenty-four years ago I became the fourth Pastor of Saint Peter Parish. I immediately felt the warm love that exists between a Pastor and his people. I will forever remember the love I have for the children of the parish and each of you.

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. As I enter a new season in my life journey, I ask for your continued prayers and offer my deepest apologies and I ask your forgiveness for any hurt I have caused you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father Earl F. Simone