

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

### “What on earth are you good for?”

I have heard that said many times. Sometimes it is said as a criticism to express disappointment.

Sometimes it is said in jest as a way of laughing at some human attempt that should be easy but fails.

Sometimes it is said as a serious question that deserves careful thought and a serious answer.

I would like to raise the question as it is used in the latter sense.

As we enter the New Year, it would be wise if each of us individually as well as St. Timothy, the faith community, were prepared to answer it. This would be especially so if we perceived that it is God who is asking us the question.

The question has two parts. What on earth and what for. “What on earth...what in this location...at this particular time?” is the first part. “What are you good for?” is the other. What in this particular circumstance and for this particular stage of our life, what will be the outcome of our being here? What could one expect of us? When we set out to do something, what is the outcome we are hoping to achieve?

What on earth are we good for?

“Outcome thinking” is essential to any individual or group that hopes to accomplish much. Outcome thinking requires that before setting out to do something you get clear about what you want to achieve.

The destination is identified before choosing actions to get there.

People in organizations are notorious for getting busy doing things before they get clear about why they are being busy in the first place. Actions and methods are selected before it is clear what those actions and methods are supposed to achieve. The old saying is true: “If you don’t know where you are going, any path will get you there.”

Last month I wrote in this article: “I happen to believe St. Timothy’s finest days are ahead. It is not that former days were bad. It is just that the future days can be finer... I know that God has so much more in store for us than we can imagine....When we allow Him to break us and rebuild us into a new and renewed force for Him, our finest days are ahead of us.”

But we need to ask ourselves, what are we going to be good for? For God’s sake, what do we need to get expert in so that the outcome of our actions will result in something significant for God? The days are long gone when St. Timothy (or any other Christian faith community) can afford to go along being “active” but not “active” for a clear purpose. The finest days ahead will be days filled with accomplishing something for God!

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