



## *Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier*

As we enter the winter months, many people gauge time by how quickly (or slowly) the cold weather passes, and we get to Spring. Of course that is a rather "small" view of time. A larger view would be to consider the time of winter as part of the greater period of the whole year, which consists of all four seasons. An even larger view of time is to consider how many of those seasonal years pass within a generation. To expand further, one might reflect on how many generations have passed since humans came to be. To really challenge our conception of time, we could try to imagine how many centuries have passed between the big bang and the appearance of humans.

Sometimes when I get bogged down and depressed about what is happening in this particular time (like the dark, cold winter, or the pandemic), it helps to change my perspective regarding time. For example, if I look at things from a generational view of time, humans have seen pandemics come and go. So this one will go too. From the view of the time since humans came to be, we have survived and multiplied, despite our tendencies for self destruction.

In Spiritual terms, we can talk about this bigger view of time as "God's time." We tend to look at only small pieces of time which affect only our little corner of reality. That is our almost automatic, self-centered way of looking at things. Jesus told us about God's time. That the Reign of God is growing even when (especially when) it looks like we are dying to our own self-centered concerns. God's time has been playing out since the big bang. From that point of view, everything has always been in God's hands, and always will be. That can be very comforting no matter what troubling time we are experiencing at the moment.

*~ Peace,*

*Fr. Garry*