



St. Matthew's Cathedral eNews

Christ + Compassion + Community

From the Dean

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People in Exile

But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile. . . Jeremiah 29:7

I am a native born son of Dallas. I was born at Methodist Hospital in Oak Cliff. Yet, even as a native son of this city, I am exile. I am actually a citizen of heaven. We all are citizens of heaven, and our Lord has called us to begin living like citizens of heaven from the moment of our spiritual rebirth at baptism.

Once I was in Honduras over the Fourth of July and it was such an eerie, lonely feeling knowing it was American Independence Day with no one around me celebrating it. One Fourth of July I was in England, and some of the Americans there threw a Fourth of July party to which I was invited. It was such a contrast to be celebrating American Independence Day in the country from which we had gained independence and where it was not being celebrated at all.

As citizens of heaven, we are called to live "on earth as it is in heaven" in this foreign land called earth. God calls us to love as he loved us, reach out to the poor and needy as he reached out to us, to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Our call at St. Matthew's is to live as citizens of heaven in this foreign land where we have been planted and to seek its welfare.

Why? Because we are in exile ourselves, and God was gracious to us to draw us into his kingdom.

This capital campaign, MOVING FORWARD . . . REACHING OUT! is aimed at equipping our building so that ministry to exiles can take place. We are making our buildings both more beautiful and functional so that we can get a hearing from the exiles that God brings our way.

So, we ask you to give generously, as God has been generous towards you, for the sake of those that God wants us to reach.