

## Wilderness Words



## Spirit of the Wilderness

Weekly News—February 24, 2011

### Vicar Notes:

A number of my clergy brothers and sisters have told me about a workshop they did in the spring with Brian MacClaren. One quote comes up over and over: "The church is a school of love." What does that mean?

They tell me that MacClaren is convinced that we all need a place where we can learn to love others—who are not related to us so we HAVE to; who are not necessarily like minded with us; who may actually be people we don't even like all that much. It is in the church where we are with people who are that different from us that we can learn what love really is.

Jesus said something like that in a recent lesson: if you love those who love you, what good is that? **Anybody**, Jesus says, even the worst of the worst, can do that. Our love for one another is to be different—which is why we need a school for love.

In his wonderful book *Screwtape Letters*, the older tempter counsels his apprentice to have "the patient" look down on the people in church around him: "Provided any of those sing out of tune, or have boots that squeak, or double chins or odd clothes, the patient will quite easily believe that their religion must therefore be somehow ridiculous."

One of the vows orders take is that of "stability,"—which is radically counter cultural. It is a vow to not move from here to there, to not decide when things are tough that we've had enough and are moving on. Families can offer that stability, but our commitment to a church family can offer it too. So here we are....February in northern Minnesota and still working at love....learning to love one another.

Peace, Mary Ellen+



### Don't forget!!!

- Monday, March 7th: Food Shelf
- Wednesday, March 9th: Ash Wednesday evening at WindCradle. 7-9
- Sunday, March 13th: Baptism at Spirit 10:30
- Wednesday, March 16th: Bishop's Committee meets with facilitator 6-9 Reed and Barbara's.
- Sunday, March 27th: Bishop's Committee Retreat 12-6 at Holaday's.
- Art Colony Collaboration, April 10-24 : April 8-9 retreat on Creativity and Spirituality; April 10th opening.

How about a social sometime in later March or early April?

How about an adult forum on Matthew April 6th?