

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

June 27, 2008

Most of you know that I've been writing a blog for nearly a year now. A blog is a kind of personal website on which this writer posts his own commentary, guides for understanding the Sunday scriptures, quotes from and links to news stories, some video and here and there some music. Readers, if they so choose, can post responses (anonymously or with a screen name) to what they find there. My blog is titled: You can find all this online at *A Concord Pastor Comments*, at

**[www.ConcordPastor.blogspot.com](http://www.ConcordPastor.blogspot.com)**

On occasion I have published in my weekly letter something already up on my blog. Parishioners not on line have asked for that and I'm happy to oblige now and again. The next eight paragraphs, then, are from my blog this week.

*My sister emailed today to remind my brother and me that this is the anniversary of our father's death, 33 years ago... It's hard to believe that my father has been gone for more than half of my life... Could it have really been that long ago? Am I really that old? The answers to those questions are, of course, yes and yes...*

*I miss my mother and father in many ways and in different ways but perhaps most of all I regret that they are not here to share in the joys of their children's lives.*

*I remember sitting at the kitchen table with my mother a year or so after my father had died and asking her if she missed him. (Yes, a foolish question!) She told me that after caring for him as he struggled with cancer she was grateful that his suffering had come to an end but that indeed she missed him very much. Then she told me that the one thing she would love would be to sit at that same kitchen table and, just one more time, see my father pull into the driveway, coming home from work, and come into the house to have a cup of tea with her...*

*It's the simple joys that mean the most and the ones we miss the most when they are gone...*

*How I would love to see my parents with my sister's new grandson! How I'd love for them to worship on a Sunday morning in my brother's parish and in mine...*

*Certainly, in faith, I believe that they continue to share in our joys and that with all the saints in heaven they intercede for us, placing our needs and burdens before the Lord. Still, it would be nice to have that cup of tea...*

*For today, however, I will remember that, indeed, it's a blessing to have friends in high places...*

*-ConcordPastor*

Around the country, church and civic groups have conducted small campaigns to collect and send overseas varied and sundry items needed by American service men and women in harm's way. We're planning such an event in September with the cooperation of Crosby's Market in Concord center. The items needed will be stocked by Crosby's and over two days you'll be able to purchase them and drop them off at a collection table at the Market doors. What we collect will be shipped out of Hanscom between September 16-18. Kathy Cammarata is leading this effort and we'll need some

folks to do some planning over the summer and more folks to be at the collection point in September.  
Interested? Please email Kathy or me at:

**Kathybc@msn.com** and **FrAustinFleming@aol.com**

- or call me at the parish office: 978-369-7442, Ext 225.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Fleming