

I must say that it has been an interesting couple of weeks here at the Cathedral. I should have just stayed on vacation because on my first day back and my quiet world was suddenly upended by: "Where am I going?" I was to find another residence.

I week later, on a rainy Monday morning, Kim and Mike Kremer along with our maintenance guys moved me into a new home in the museum district. After my move, the next big move would be for the CCM to move into my place, and then our staff was to move into the CCM house and the bishop eventually moving into our offices, which was once was the bishop's residence.

Well as I was leaving from my new home on Friday morning I checked my phone. It was full of texts and voice mail: All saying basically the same thing: There is a fire at Cathedral. As I pulled near, I had flash backs to when my kitchen caught fire and all along the street was the same then as Friday: reporters, police, ambulances, fire trucks everywhere and lots of smoke.

Many have asked me what caused this fire, perhaps looking at me suspiciously. They said it originated in one of the outlets in the kitchen. There were no toasters nearby. Because of all this, life has been rather chaotic for myself and for my staff. I think we'd all like to pull an Elijah and find a nearby tree and just lay down and say, "This is enough, O Lord!" I once woke up groggily in my new home thinking, "Where am I?" as I bumped into something in the dark of night.

But like with Elijah, there have been lots of angels helping us move forward, with kind words and patience as you wander trying to find bathrooms.

We are all on a journey and sometimes-crazy events shake our world or we find ourselves exhausted like Elijah. I suspect there are a parent or two would like to find that broom tree and just lay down as the kids circle all around you; a student straining to keep up with the endless papers and exams; another exhausted looking for work.

At times we all might want to take a step back and ask, "Where am I going?"

Elijah's story is rich with symbolism. His discouragement represents all of the problems that we can have in I lives. Sometimes, these problems are so overwhelming that we want to give up. But in this story, God steps in and offers us a remedy: food for the journey.

The 40 days and 40 nights could symbolize our whole life journey, and mount Horeb symbolize heaven, being with God. The moral of the story for Catholic Christians is that despite all of our life problems, Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will strengthen us for the journey in this world to eternal life in the next.

Every time I hold the Eucharist before me in Mass, I see Jesus who loves us, who wants to help in our journey upon earth. Jesus wants us to be with him. He is what sustains us along with those angels of supporting friends and family.

Elijah had a purpose and he knew where he was going, even though he at times surely wanted to give up. I think if we are going in the right direction and have a healthy purpose in life, we will find that we will be nourished by God to continue forward.

Malnutrition is rampant in our world. There are two kinds of ways a person can suffer from malnutrition.

One is from not having enough food, which is true of what is called the "Third World." The other is from eating the wrong kind of food, which is a problem in our world. Either one can lead to physical deterioration, emotional problems, depression and the like.

And all of us have spiritual hungers that are as real as the hungers of the body. Problems occur when we try to fill our spiritual hunger with junk food from the world. These hungers of the soul can exist in the most materially prosperous country.

In fact, material prosperity can sometimes mask spiritual malnutrition. Just as a person can be overweight and still have a severe vitamin deficiency, so can people who are extremely wealthy but dying spiritually.

C.S Lewis wrote: "Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exists. A baby feels hunger: well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim: well, there is such a thing as water.... If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world." I would add that only he from that world can satisfy our hunger.

That is why it is always so important to ask ourselves, "Where am I going?" Is it a good place that will feed my soul or is it starving my soul?

Over the course of our lives, through the Scripture readings, we are guided toward the right path. There are friends like angels, encouraging us, telling us what we need to hear; or saints providing us with different spiritual paths.

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross – AKA the once Jewish Edith Stein, became an atheist in her search for truth, as she wanted to be unencumbered by anything religious in that quest. That was, until she came across a copy of the autobiography and St Teresa of Avila.

She read it all night and it led her to becoming a Christian and finally a Sister with Carmelites. She would die as a martyr in Nazi gas chamber.

When St. John Paul II canonized her he said, "She searched for truth in her journey and discovered it had a name, Jesus Christ."

+And so, we must ask once more, "Where am I going?"