

Extracted from St John Vianney Oct 27, 2013 Bulletin

**Ramblings XXXVII:** Prepared by Carl Beyer and Friends

Hello everyone! Fall is here. We have been canning every weekend and freezing for later canning when we catch up. This was a very green year except for the failure of almost 100% of the planted tomatoes. There were plenty of wild cherry tomatoes and one regular tomato that grew on its own and gave us fresh tasty fruit.

We made our first batch of grape jelly which, while tasty, is time-consuming and made in small batches. Our big batch of salsa was much milder this year, so it was much more consumable for *me*. We made chicken soup with our green beans, potatoes, onions and carrots from the garden. Not enough space to raise chickens so we had to purchase them. Earlier we got some beets canned and we froze some beet greens. It is too bad that no fruit was borne on the trees this year but there is hope for next year.

I believe there is a primitive part of us that, when the weather starts cooling, sends us into preparation mode. It is time to put away summer toys, time to clean up the yards, time to ensure the animals are safe, time to plan the winter projects, but most of all time to prepare to slow down and enjoy the quieter winter months.

My wife and I have officially become empty nesters for a while, so we are making that adjustment, letting the kids venture off and find their directions in life. My direction points simply to more prayers, more often. We pray that our merciful, loving God will intercede and give our children both safety and purpose in life. I think that must be how our Lord feels, giving us the gift of Free Will, letting us lead our lives, only able to influence and try to give guidance and to each a different plan. After all, although we are all created in His Image, we are all unique, and no one plan fits all. How our Lord must laugh and cry to see our accomplishments as well as our failures as we blunder through our lives on Earth!

We have many extra Masses coming up, starting on Halloween night, and the season of Advent is almost upon us, so please prepare; pay attention to the bulletin for their times. I am sure you will agree that it is so nice to see our very own Deacon Steve Rangel at our Masses. Welcome Deacon Steve!

Go forth and prepare. God Bless you all.