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Ramblings XXXIV by Carl Beyer and Friend

Life is over; well, at least my normal camping life for this season. First, we should give thanks that in this day and age we are not facing a shortage of food because of the lack of rain. This drought is mighty inconvenient but not life-threatening as it would have been in past centuries.

My garden is green thanks to modern technology. We are about ready to harvest the first crop of beets and sow the second planting. No squash bugs yet; did I win the war? Better not celebrate yet. On the down side, my little tomato plants have little horn worms. They are almost invisible but for the damage they do. About a third of all the plants have not survived this heat. In my experience, tomatoes do not like excessive heat.

The green grape wall between my neighbors' and our houses is doing very well. I believe this is its third year, and it is providing plenty of privacy. We are also going to have a bountiful grape harvest as a bonus. On the down side, all the grapes I planted earlier this spring for a green fence in another area of the yard have died, so that one is delayed for now.

No fruit on any trees. Even my faithful cherry tree is barren. Speaking of cherries, I had thought I planted a cherry hedge on the side of the house, but my best friend, Harlan, let me know that it is a Chinese elm growing wild. Grrr. I planted about six cherry hedges, and only one has survived. These plants always look so pretty in the pictures, but New Mexico sun just beats them down. I have been wasting water on a tree I do not want to grow.

So we have our weekday Masses and our office, and our Parish starts down the path to a bright future of serving our Lord. I pray that our Parish remains a place of service to our parishioners – people who give of themselves to let God's light shine through. I pray we do not lose sight of our goal, which is not buildings and bureaucracy but drawing people to our Lord. Our Lord will smile much more upon the souls we lead toward Him than upon building, a structure on this Earth. Pray for guidance for St. John Vianney Parish as we start down this path.

Let us end this where we started: Pray for Rain. I know, it slips our minds because our lives go on – business as usual - but we need to push this to the top of our prayer list. The animals are suffering out there, and the forests around New Mexico are taking a beating. And I need my camping to maintain my calm demeanor.... or else!