

Thoughts of the week for March 7 – 13

“So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
The Apostle Paul

“Watch you thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.”
Lao Tze

These two quotations are most appropriate during this Lenten season and even beyond. We all recognize the Apostle Paul, but perhaps not Lao-Tze. Lao Tze was a Chinese philosopher from the period 500 BCE or thereabouts. He is the founder of Taoism and stressed pursuing virtue. In the quotations today, they both make a strong case for an active love which indeed may become our destiny not, however, without struggle. We have a tendency to lose the dynamic which comes from faith, hope and love - - in particular love. Jesus made it clear to those of us who declare that we follow Him that it would not be easy, there would be much resistance and violence. Nevertheless, he challenged us to follow. The celebration of the Lord's Supper is a strong dynamic in this philosophy, i.e. if we really want to follow Him, the demands are powerful and non-violent.