



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Spiritual Essays

Center for Ignatian Spirituality

2006

Temporary Time

Fr. Randy Roche

Loyola Marymount University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Roche, Fr. Randy, "Temporary Time" (2006). *Spiritual Essays*. 232.

<https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/spiritualessays/232>

This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritual Essays by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

Temporary Time

How much time do we have? If the context is an invitation to take a walk, we can reply that we have an hour, or only a few minutes. But if the question is about the remainder of our lives, we do not have an answer. We do not possess time as we might own a certain amount of money, or some books, or articles of clothing.

Time is not a material, though we are very particular about our measures of time. Astronomers talk about light-years, geologists and paleontologists talk about millennia, and we talk about how quickly the week has passed. But none of us controls time. We live in time – temporarily. The owner of time is the Creator of time, who is also outside of time.

For us, time and spirituality are related. We can control neither, but we can make very good use of our experiences of both, or we can ignore their ongoing effects in our lives, to our loss. Time and spirituality are aspects of all our thinking, acting, and choosing, but they are not substances that we can manage. How we live in our present moment of time, guided by experiences of the past and of concerns for the future, reflects our spirituality.

Every moment of time is a gift of God to each of us. We commonly say of people that some lived a long time, while others lived only for a few days. From the Giver's point of view, neither "long" nor "short" applies to the essence of the gift. What we do with any given moment of time contains a timeless value. We do not know how much time remains for us, but if we choose to believe that we have exactly as much as we need to fulfill our purpose in this life, we can live with much more freedom and effectiveness than if we spend our energy on trying to control the effects of time upon us.

We are temporarily in time, but we are not temporary beings. We began at a particular moment in time, and will certainly meet death, but we will continue on into timeless eternity. We are created in love and for love by God, who is Love. Love does not come to an end. Time comes to an end, being only a temporary condition for us as we engage in being loved and in loving.

Everything we know is affected by time, except love. Love is not measured by time, but by degree. We often measure life, as we now experience it, by time. But the eternal and timeless measure of life is love. We are moving now towards the end of our experiences in time.

We will move over into timelessness, and continue to be ourselves. Our size and shape will not matter, while love will be a "full time, all the time" occupation, if that is now the most significant aspect of our lives. What we have begun to do in time we will continue to do, in timelessness, with God. What God does in timelessness is to love.

What time is it now? From our perspective, we look at a watch or a clock to provide us with the correct answer. We can look at a "world clock" to learn what time it is in another part of the world. What time is it for all those who have gone before us into timelessness? Clocks are of no help. We can believe that for all who people who have passed through death, they are living wholly according to the pattern they had established in time. If they loved, it is time to love absolutely. If they chose not to love, then it is time to be absolutely into self alone.

We are people who are given not only the gift of time, but the capacity to give and to receive love. Now is the time to "love our neighbors as ourselves." Time is temporary, love is eternal.