Richard Smallwood February 24, 2018

For a few weeks now we've been asking, "What on Earth am I Here for?" I think today's First Reading is a great example of how to discover the answer. Genesis, Chapter 37 focuses on Joseph, the youngest son of Israel. Even better, he was the favorite son. He seemed to have a good life. But, his brothers were extremely jealous of him. They planned to kill him and make it look like an accident. They didn't want Joseph around so they threw him in a well. But they couldn't handle the guilt of his death, so they sold him into slavery.

Recently, I was away at a school convention with a friend who, like Joseph, seemed to have everything: popularity, smarts, money, and athleticism. One night, as I settled into my hotel room, he texted me saying he was severely depressed because he felt so excluded. He had made a plan to kill himself and make it look like an accident. But, instead of going through with it, he decided to text me. I believe God touched my friend and led him to reach out to me. I thank God my friend is alive and realizes he has a purpose on this Earth.

In our society, we often exclude others – sometimes intentionally and sometimes without even realizing it. Christian Fellowship includes everyone. So, this Lenten Season, let's focus on *inclusion*. Let's make an effort to reach out to someone we don't normally associate with. Ask God *who* is in most need of feeling His presence today. Then, help them feel included and not so alone.

What on Earth are we here for? It's a trick question. **We are here for someone far greater than anything here on Earth.**