

# *Family Focus*

**FROM ERIC**



## PLANNING FOR EMERGENCIES: THREE STEPS TO BE PREPARED

In less than an hour, you can help yourself and others toward safety.

Family,

I had the distinct pleasure and honor to be asked by our state government to participate recently in a conference for church leaders hosted by Governor Jay Nixon. The conference was dedicated to teaching church leaders how to equip their churches to be of assistance during times of local crisis and disaster. It was eye opening to say the least. What struck me the most was this fact that all of the presenters shared--we as a church cannot be of assistance to our community in crisis if we as a church family are in the same crisis mode ourselves. We cannot facilitate a bread line if we are in need of bread ourselves. This is a sobering thought, especially in light of the fact that we as a church are so dedicated to helping others. So what do we do to prepare ourselves? The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services have put together some great resources for us to consider as a church and as individual members. The key suggestion is for all of us to take these three key steps, 1) create a plan, 2) prepare an emergency kit, and 3) listen for information. Over the next few weeks I would like to share with you what goes into those three steps and how they can make the difference for our church family's safety and our ability to help the "least of these" as Christ would have us do. For more information visit the web site [www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov), click on Emergency Response & Terrorism (left hand column), and then the Ready in 3 logo.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric".

The one thing necessary is a true interior and spiritual life, true growth, on my own, in depth in a new direction. Whatever new direction God opens up for me. My job is to press forward, to grow interiorly, to pray, to break away from attachments and to defy fears, to grow in faith, which has its own solitude, to seek an entirely new perspective and new dimension in my life. To open up new horizons at any cost, to desire this and let the Holy Spirit take care of the rest. But really to desire this and work for it.

From *Toward a Theology of Love*  
by Thomas Merton