Rev's Reflections

Catastrophes and Opportunities

Last week I was shocked by the image of the South Korean cargo ship *Dali* plowing slowing into the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore, bringing it down in a pile of twisted trusses.

The first thing I thought was "how does something like that happen?"

Then I thought about my parents, who had just left Florida the day before. They sometimes cross that bridge on their way home to Connecticut. I worried about them for a moment, even though I knew there was no way they were on that bridge at 1:30 in the morning.

Then the reality hit me as I learned the facts. Emergency officials had enough time to prevent cars from going onto the bridge, so there were few motorists, but there was construction underway on the bridge. Workers were injured and probably killed. Sure, not having the bridge will be a huge inconvenience for the thirty thousand people who cross it commuting to and from work every single day, but it was a catastrophe for those injured or killed and for their families.

Tragedies like these take up a lot of our mental and emotional bandwidth, and they should. Even if we can't do anything about the outcomes, we can be present for our siblings who suffer, even if we've never met them. And so many catastrophes are happening in the world.

Article II is not a catastrophe. But it still deserves our attention.

I look at it not as something that will go sideways without my attention. I don't feel obligated to give it some of my mental energy. I look at it as something interesting, even fun. A chance to see our process in action. Even to be a part of the history of our faith. Engaging in the process is a way to enjoy input into something positive in a world where there is so much to worry about.

In Peace,
Rev Denis