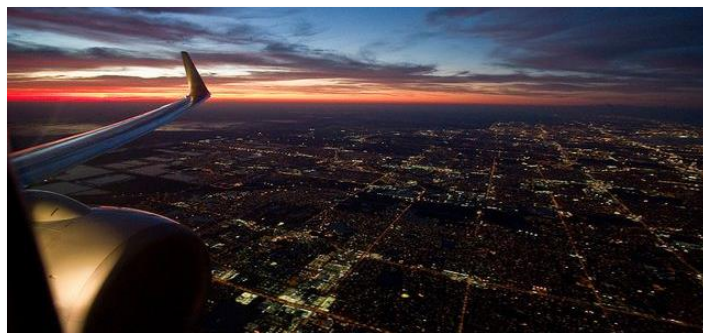


# Reflections While Flying

By Deacon Bob Salvestrini



Flying to Tucson, Arizona last week, I was seated by a window and thanks to a clear sky, I was able to see the country from an altitude of over six miles. From that height, people disappear from view, cars and trucks become mere specks, and buildings appear as glimmering mini-Legos. One feature that remained identifiable was the roads. Seeing roads in the Great Plains States, cities, and mountains I was drawn to reflect on just how different these roads were and how in a sense they were representative how life's challenges and temptations affect various lives.

The roads in the Great Plains States were seemingly endless, arrow straight, stretching miles with only an occasional slight deviation. It appeared as if they were drawn with a straight edge. They spoke of a life focused on a goal somewhere down the road and was undeterred by any of life's challenges.

City roads appeared to be laid out in a grid pattern with many crossing the main road. It was as if a life traveling on a city road was faced with many alternative paths and not all leading to the initial destination. A turn off the main road to a road labeled power, wealth, or pleasure could be tempting and considerable effort might be required to return to the main road and toward the original destination.

Mountain roads appeared as a child's scribble, endless twists and turns absent of any straight direct paths often doubling back on themselves just to move forward. I saw in these roads the seemingly endless challenges that occur in some lives. Illness, loss of jobs, broken marriages, rebellious children could be some of the curves of a mountain road kind of life that make the journey to the destination more arduous.

As I tried to focus on earthly features other than roads I wondered if God's focus is on how well we travel the road toward our goal and not so much on how straight our road is or how many interruptions we encounter before we arrive at our heavenly destination.

