

Eureka!

LCDR R. C. Richards
Command Chaplain

I don't know if you have ever heard the word, "eureka" before, but I became acquainted with it quite a number of years ago. It is a Latin word that means, "I found it." It has been associated with scientists who have made amazing discoveries. It has also found its way onto quite a number of maps, as several states have towns or cities by that name.

It is easy to understand how a place could come to be named Eureka. If I was a settler early on in our Nation's history, it is conceivable that when I found a pristine location for my own piece of land, I would feel that I had found exactly what I was looking for and name the location accordingly. It is reported that some of the places out west came to be named Eureka when gold or other precious metals were found in the area. We have at least one state that I know of that has a town named Eureka Springs.

My favorite use of the term, however, is associated with science and discovery. I have always had an interest in science and I like the idea of finally making a new discovery or uncovering the answer to a problem. I can picture a scientist in his lab coat from his laboratory exclaiming, "Eureka! I have found it!" To me, it conveys the idea of great excitement over something we have been working hard to learn or find.

Have you ever been really excited over a discovery that you made, especially if the discovery is something that you have been struggling with or diligently working on? Or have you ever been lost and finally found your way? The excitement is overwhelming – EUREKA! I would imagine that Christopher Columbus was that excited, happy and relieved when he saw land on the horizon after his long voyage across the ocean. He had been at sea for weeks and I suspect that he and his crew were discouraged and fearful that they would never see land again.

I think that all of us have challenges in our lives for which we are seeking directions and answers. It may not be as astronomical as discovering a new land but equally as important and significant. It may be working through a financial problem or a troubled relationship. It may be searching for happiness or a sense of purpose in life. The greatest discovery we can ever ascertain is our connection with God.

The Bible is very clear that we were created to have a relationship with God. The exciting part is seeking God, discovering who He is and what a wonderful plan He has for our lives. Just as Columbus was on a mission, we have a responsibility; a duty to find all of the blessings and revelations that God has in store for each of us. Once we find it, once we experience God – EUREKA – WHAT JOY, WHAT BLESSINGS!

When you embrace the answer, when you embrace God, you will be thrilled with the discovery.

Semper Fi in the Lord and I hope to see you in church on Sunday.