



AN INSTRUMENT OF PRICELESS VALUE

By Bill Pugh

Recently we went to a concert in Hamer Hall. We were privileged to hear the most beautiful sounds of a Stradivarius violin played by a visiting artist of extraordinary talent. These violins were specially created by an Italian family in the 17th and 18th centuries. Now they are of priceless value. Some have been valued as much as millions of dollars. The visiting violinist, Vadim Gluzman, played on one of these violins which was loaned to him by the Stradivari Society of Chicago. We were treated to a wonderful rendition of Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto by the MSO. That

performance left the huge audience spellbound. As the sounds died away the audience was silent. Then, in appreciation, the audience erupted into rapturous applause. A tribute to a gifted musician playing that priceless violin. On the journey home, I gave thanks for that special evening. It caused me to question "what is the most priceless gift of all?" Surely the most precious gift is the one God gave us, the sacrifice of his only son on the cross, the price of his life for each of us made once and for all, the cost of salvation. How thankful we should be!

Reflection:

Every Easter the Church rises to sing praise for the priceless gift. Thomas Kelly expresses it thus: we sing the praise of him who died upon the cross, inscribed upon the cross we see in shining letters - 'God is love'.