

From the Pastor's Office

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I am deeply moved by Paul's letter to Timothy today. Paul is in Rome awaiting execution. That must have been awful. He had little to console him. We heard of Onesimus, a young man who befriended Paul. Onesimus brought him comfort. Paul considered him like a son. While he was in prison Paul got to write some letters. He wrote to Timothy, who was a newly appointed leader of his Christian community. Timothy took on the aspect of a local Bishop. Paul had a lot of advice to give to Timothy. In the extract from his letter today, Paul tells us about his trial. At his trial nobody spoke in his defense. That is terrible. If that happened to me I would despair. Yet, Paul carried on. The early Christians considered any suffering as a privilege. They considered it an honor to share in the sufferings of their crucified Lord. Standing on the dock alone, Paul relived the trial of Jesus while He stood alone in the dock as well. "But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength." The letter begins with Paul realizing that his end was nigh. "I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. The crown of righteousness awaits me." It is time to put away the letters. It is time for Paul to prepare for his end. Yet, Paul is happy at the end. He says the crown of righteousness awaits him. The early Christians were extraordinary about the practice of their faith. They would put us to shame. I think there is a moment in everyone's life when we lift our gaze away from the things of this world and we look to the heavens. Lots of our elderly people will confess to that. They will say that they are waiting for death to come. Let the Lord come and take me. I am ready. There is something beautiful about that.



With love,
Fr. Pat