

From the Pastor's Office

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings, who seeks his strength in flesh, whose heart turns away from the Lord." That is a quotation from the first lesson today. That speaks to me right now because I am amazed at the politics and decision making of people. People will follow anyone without questioning who they are, or what they are about. They hear a few sentences and they are ready to put the hat and wave the banner. We listen to the fanatics on television and I am amazed at their stupidity. That is the only word I can use. People don't know how to discern the truth. They will follow anyone. Twinkle them with a few lights and they are yours. This is my deeper thought. It is about Adolf Hitler. All you need is one man who makes a great speech, and everyone wants to follow him, even to Hell if necessary. We can be very naïve. The Gospel reading tells us that crowds followed Jesus. They said He was good with words. Ironically, at the end He only had twelve dedicated followers. At Caesarea Philippi Jesus made a speech that scattered the herd very quickly. As soon as He told them that His destiny was to go to Jerusalem where He would be arrested and tried, they didn't want to follow Him anymore. We love to follow success. We love big talk. The one with the mouth said if we follow him we will prosper, and great things will happen. They all said that before. It must be that big talk always works. We love it. Jesus stood in the place and He preached what we call "The Beatitudes." The words are poetic and pleasant to listen to. I can imagine the crowd hearing these words for the first time. They must have been good because Luke felt the need to record them for posterity. They are good words. We are all a bit trodden down by life. It is nice to hear someone say that even still we are blessed by God. Blessed are you who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, insulted, denounced. You will be blessed by God. That is comforting. Just to add some spice Jesus added the next bit. Woe to the rich and satisfied. A day of regret will come to you, just you wait. The danger for someone prophetic like Jesus is that we want Him to spend His days giving us nice thoughts. We don't handle the challenging words so well. Wait until they hear Him tell them to love their enemies. That will definitely send them packing.



With love,
Fr. Pat