

## From the Pastor's Office

### Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The second reading today comes from the Letter to the Hebrews. This is one of my favorite books of the Bible. The writer is a poet and a deep thinker. I have wondered about many things that I have read in the Letter to the Hebrews. Consider the opening sentence in today's reading. "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things unseen." Sometimes living in the modern world, we think we have it all sewn up when it comes to knowledge and understanding. I think we all wonder about faith. The non-believer wonders how come my family has faith and I don't. As a child I used to look at my mom and dad when we were in church. Something got their attention in church because they insisted that I be quiet for a while, while they prayed. What is this mysterious thing? Gradually I learned that they were talking to God. God mattered in their lives. Because of God they lived in a certain way. They behaved in another certain way. I learned how to pray from them. My teachers taught me to pray. My community taught me how to pray. Eventually I learned my own prayer language. It came as a big surprise when I learned that God knew all about me. Sometimes, when I was a bold boy I wondered if God was watching. You can't get away with anything when God is watching you. What is the evidence of things unseen? When we see it, we know what it is. I was talking with Eric Carreiro, our Music Director, about the success of our recent Music Camp in the parish. It went very well. Eric was delighted with the participation of the young people. They seemed to enjoy it. He was also delighted with the grown-ups who gave of their time to mentor these young people. Eric mentioned a trio of young ladies who became best friends forever during the Camp. He mentioned a lone young guitar player who grew in confidence because he got one-on-one attention from one of the adults. I asked Eric, "Was God in this?" Eric said, "Absolutely!" How did Eric know that God was in this? This is the evidence of things unseen. God is in it. I might not be able to put accurate words on this, but I instinctively know that God is in it. That is all we need. The great theological debates and proofs for the existence of God can wait. All I need to know is that God is in it.



With love,  
Fr. Pat