

## From the Pastor's Office

*27th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

There is a Taizé chant that says, "Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart." The problem is we can't wait for the Lord. Lord, I want it now. It isn't always the case that I want it now because I am spoiled and I expect everything now. Sometimes my life is in crisis and I desperately need God's help. The message of the scriptures is to say that God acts in His own time. We don't get to make demands on God. He responds in His way, in His own time and place. That is very inconvenient. "How long O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen!" We have all said that. I hate it when God is late with His reply. Yet, the scriptures tell us that while we have to wait, in the end God will come through for us. He will not disappoint. When God is late in responding lots of people decide, "I am done with God." It is easy to lose faith in God. So, on to the Gospel reading. The disciples ask Jesus to show them how to increase their faith. What do I do when my faith is weak? Jesus tells the story about the landowner who orders his servant to prepare him a meal. The poor servant is exhausted from working in the fields. Instead of allowing the poor man to rest the landowner has him working in the house as well. The story seems to be unfair to the servant, but maybe there is something more here. It doesn't particularly satisfy me, but there you have it. Charles Dickens wrote a book called "Great Expectations." As members of God's people we are not to have "Any Expectations." Life is what it is. I am a servant. I do servant's work. I am a landowner. I give orders. We are not allowed to have expectations. Life happens. Things happen all the time. It is what it is. We make the best of it. Sometimes it is terrible. Jesus always invites us to be vulnerable before God. Paul says I must decrease and Christ must increase in me. Jesus says in the gospel reading today, "We are unprofitable servants, we have done what we were obliged to do." He emptied Himself taking the form of a servant.



With love,  
Fr. Pat