

From the Pastor's Office

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I have always wondered about wicked people. They seem to get away with murder, and often times they do. It all seems so unfair. You get these career criminals and they just spend their days robbing and stealing and they seem to get away with it. Poor innocents like the rest of us, one transgression and we are done for. I often lament about the wicked people who are locked up in jail for a lifetime. What a waste of talent. Many of these people, if they lived in the straight and narrow and offered their skills for the betterment of society, what wonderful leaders they would make. If some of these just did the right thing instead of the wrong thing, we would gladly make them president. The prophet Ezekiel answered something for me. The truth is God gives wicked people every opportunity to turn away from their ways. Some of us need a long time to alter our course, maybe even a lifetime. In God's eyes, because they have turned their ways to the good, God will welcome them into the Kingdom of Heaven. I remember someone saying, "Thank God it is God who will judge us and not you. If you were Judge, we would all be sent to Hell." I can be very selective about my mercy. I can also bear a grudge very well. In fact, I like to nurture my grudges. I have a room in my house with my books of grudges. Some of them go back a long time. Worse than that, I pass on my grudges to my children as part of their inheritance. They will fight my battles in the years to come. At some point, it all gets a bit silly. We know that. Lots of people who bear grudges against the Church nurture them because of some past hurt. Some Church person, a priest, a bishop, or parish secretary did and said the wrong thing. Instead of fixing it, getting clarity, asking for forgiveness, I walk away and bad mouth the lot of them. It seems to me, about people, that behind us there is a trail of unfinished business just thrown to the ground. My life is like a battlefield of wars won and lost. That is no way to live. I need to clean up my mess. I need to forgive the best I can and move on.



With love,
Fr. Pat