

From the Pastor's Office

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There is a lot of talk about prophecy in the popular media right now. Coming into the new year we hear news talking about famous prophets like Nostradamus. Then there is that blind lady from Eastern Europe, Baba Vanga. Recently I heard about a new one from Brazil. Along with that, we have all kinds of oddities. There are people who claim they have come back from the future to warn us that we are heading to catastrophe. I could have told them that myself. I don't need a prophet to tell me. More, there are photos published of people from the past carrying cell phones to their ears. I thought all this access to media today was to make our lives better, and more informed. Instead, there are crackpots with sinister motives trying to frighten us to death. I don't like to be manipulated by anyone. How does anybody know that what they are saying is true? In the world of spirituality, we talk about discernment. Discernment is about trying to discover what God is saying to us. Moses was very severe about false prophets in the first lesson today. Listen to this, "If a prophet presumes to speak in my name an oracle that I have not commanded him to speak, or speaks in the name of other gods, he shall die." There are plenty of prophets in our world today. Most of them do not speak anything that is God sent. Jesus visited the synagogue in Capernaum and He was invited to say a few words. Jesus was very controversial. It is ironic that the God-fearing people couldn't fathom Him. It was a man with an unclean spirit who recognized Him. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." In the world of discernment, of God speaking to us, we have to be careful what we say. I might be very sincere but I can be easily misinterpreted. You don't want people to get the wrong idea. After Christmas, I was given a few days off. I spent those days lazing around the house. I slept as much as I could. I happened to mention that in Church. Suddenly word went out that I was sick in bed. People get the wrong idea all the time. Trying to figure out what God is saying to me is a serious business. Let me take my time. There is a line in the Bible that I often reference to help me. "By their fruits you will know them."



With love,
Fr. Pat