

## From the Pastor's Office

### *5th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Clearly, Job is having a bad day. He tells us that man's life is a drudgery. He is a slave, a hireling who waits for his wages. I have been assigned months of misery. The truth is we all feel like that sometimes. We have to work. We have to pay our bills. But there are good times as well. It isn't all bad. Here Job is speaking as a prophet called by God. He was a reluctant prophet. Sometimes it falls to me to get the job done, whether I am a prophet or not. Not everything is easy. But we have to get on with it. The job must get done. Left to ourselves we would probably sit on our recliners watching TV. That is no way to live. Paul in his letter speaks about his experience of being an Apostle and prophet. He speaks of his life as an Apostle as an obligation. He loves it. He loves preaching. He is compelled to speak. He tells us he is free but his wholehearted desire is to win souls for God. His life as an Apostle is all-embracing. I identify with Paul in my own little way. I have been doing the job of a preacher now for 38 years. The rhythm of life for all those years is that I preach every day. Every time I proclaim the Gospels I feel a compulsion to preach. It mightn't always be good, but I am dedicated to my task, just like St. Paul. It is what we do. After the controversial visit to the synagogue in Capernaum Jesus wandered away to the house of Simon. There He brought healing to Simon's mother-in-law. Very quickly word went out that a powerful healer was in the neighborhood. Naturally, people flocked to Him asking for help. When you are desperate you will do anything to find relief. Jesus was at the beginning of His public ministry. Very quickly He realized that people wanted Him. Probably surprised at this, Jesus went off to a quiet place to pray. Surely, He asked God in Heaven to watch over Him. He asked God to guide Him, now that He had begun. Very quickly after that, He went about preaching and healing all over the place. We remember when Jesus said, "When you put your hand to the plough, there is no turning back." Paul and all the others carried on that tradition. The humble priest of today carries on that tradition. We feel a compulsion to preach God's word. It is a burden to us all, but it is also a pleasure to be doing God's work. It was God who called us to this after all.



With love,  
Fr. Pat