

From the Pastor's Office

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As soon as I read in the gospel that there was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus, my back goes up. Have you nothing better to do than start making trouble? There are devout Christian people out there who think that their only way of witnessing to the faith is to agitate and make argument, just because. I have decided, because I fell into that trap many times in the past, I will not engage. You made your case. You proved that I am an idiot, now can we carry on? I'll give you an example. There are people who love to argue that the world was created in a week and the others talk about evolution, etc. As far as I can see the Book of Genesis makes a fundamental theological statement about God. It was Almighty God who made the world.



After that I don't care. I am not going to spend my days arguing theology versus evolution theory. Jesus provides us with an example of his argument. The scholar wished to carry on with his assault. He changes the subject. Who is my neighbor? Jesus gives us the story about the good Samaritan. The fact that the hero of the story is a despised Samaritan and not a devout Jew already got their backs up. This kind man went way out of his way to help. It is probably true to say that very few of us would go to that kind of trouble. I don't want to be inconvenienced. When there is a traffic accident most people slow down to have a look. They have no intention of being actually concerned. Properly, if someone is hurt we all should get out of our cars and offer to help. Not today. The attitude is often let someone else take care of it. It amuses me that the devout Jews walked on by. A regulation about ancient Jewish religion is that you do not get involved much with strangers. If you come upon a helpless person on the side of the road, if they are dead and you try to help, you will make yourself unclean in front of Jewish law. You don't do that. "He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds, and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn, and cared for him." Thank God there are good people out there willing to help. That is not true for many of us. Shame.

With love,
Fr. Pat