

## From the Pastor's Office

**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sometimes I think we become so self-absorbed that we lose perspective. What is my responsibility to life? What is my responsibility to other people? The first lesson today tells us that all is vanity. I prefer to think of vanity as my desire to display myself. I remember I was at an anniversary party. People were seated about chatting and visiting. In the background someone gave him a microphone. I guess he was some kind of master of ceremonies. He rattled on. He spoke so long and so much. He destroyed our conversations with his endless banter, I remember thinking, "I wish to God someone would tell him to shut up." We like to display ourselves. Give someone a microphone and watch them in action. What does it profit you to be so vain, so full of display that you think the world owes you everything? Our Christian faith tells us to be mindful of other people and their needs. Paul in his letter today says this, "think of what is above, not of what is on the earth." Lots of us spend our days being as shallow as possible. My immediate concerns are searching for the remote control for my TV, my next pair of new shoes even though I have a hundred of them, I must get my nails done, I want to eat a hamburger. That is all vanity. I have no perspective. Even God has to wait until I am ready, I am so important. Jesus tells us the story of the fool who has loads of money and things, and all he cares about is how to gather more. Another vain fool. How about this, you have plenty, you have more than plenty. Instead of building more barns why don't you share some of your good fortune with people who spend their days struggling? It is amazing how we can shut the world off, indifferent. They are being murdered in Gaza trying to get a sup of water. People are dying from war and violence all over the place. Families are mourning because their loved ones died in Camp Mystic. All you have to worry about is where to find your TV remote, and still you are not satisfied. Still you don't care about the plight of other people who might just be having a very bad day.



With love,  
Fr. Pat