

From the Pastor's Office

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus seems to be very urgent in the gospel today. He speaks about getting ready to meet our maker. I was watching an episode of Grey's Anatomy recently. Bailey's mother was brought into the hospital because she had dementia, and now she had Covid as well. We watched Bailey battle with the fact that her mother was dying. Jesus said to his disciples in the Gospel today, "You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Brutal truth, we are all going to die. Like most people we begin to worry about that as we enter old age. We start counting the possible years that hopefully lie ahead. A friend who was sick told me that he always wanted to see Rome. I remember thinking that was never going to happen now. You left it too late. We live with all our dreams and imaginings. The future seems to float ahead into a fog. I don't want to face death so I distract myself with all kinds of nonsense. You would be amazed at how many people call the priest at the last minute. They want to confess or they want to talk with God. They had plenty of time before to do this, but they just floated along. With all this limited time ahead of me, what is it I have to do now? Maybe I should get a passport and fly to Rome. Maybe, I spent years hating my family, old friends. Is there something I need to do about that? While I am able, I need to get my house in order. Sometimes that means literally. It is amazing the state of some people's houses. Trash everywhere. Things dumped all over the place. That to me is a reflection of what is going on in your head. You are a bit of a mess. I remember years ago when I lived in London. It was time to prepare my homily for next Sunday. I couldn't concentrate. I couldn't get going. I usually prepared my homilies at a desk in my room. I realized that my room was a mess. I needed to clean my house first before I could get going. You stand in front of your mess, you begin by picking up that piece of paper and putting it in the trash bin. You begin to clean the dishes and put them away. You throw out the garbage. Very soon you find yourself on a roll. After that you stand in front of your cleaned up house and you feel good. We need to get our houses in order, not just the place where I live. I will be going on a long journey some day and before I go I need to get my life in order. I mustn't leave my mess for somebody else to pick up.



With love,
Fr. Pat