

## From the Pastor's Office

*23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

I am very proud of our Catholic tradition. The Catholic world has contributed great things to the world. It was the Church that developed the institutions we call Universities, Hospitals and Scientific inquiry. The Church has contributed greatly to the traditions of art, music and learning. We have much to be proud of. I marvel at our great Catholic institutions, the great religious orders. Find a bunch of fanatical people with the same point of view, face them all in the same direction, give them a mission and watch them achieve. Those are the Franciscans, Dominicans, Jesuits, and a thousand other Orders of men and women. In order to be focused and dedicated you are asked to turn your back on your family, your parents and your community. That is not meant to be a hurtful thing to say, but Jesus did say you cannot love God and money. You must love one and hate the other. I marvel at the Little Sisters of the Poor as my example. In the world of sophisticated systems and processes, the Little Sisters still go out with their money boxes. They knock on doors and ask people to donate something to their charitable work. That is humility and dedication in action. The disciple of Jesus is called to focus. Our task is the work of God, to bring the Gospels to the world. That matters above all. We are not to be attached to anyone or anything else. Many times in the Gospels we are told that great crowds followed Jesus to hear Him. I suspect that lots of them were just curious. He spoke in a very radical way. That is not attractive to those of us who prefer to sit on the side. The day comes when you must pick a side. Which is it to be then?



With love,  
Fr. Pat