

## From the Pastor's Office

*3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

The prophet Isaiah talks in the first lesson about the people who walked in darkness. He also references the sea road west of the Jordan River. Here Isaiah is referencing the return of the Jews from their exile in Babylon. A miraculous thing happened for them. Cyrus became the King of Persia. His first great act was to defeat the empire of the Babylonians and declare himself to be their King as well. I don't know what overcame him, but Cyrus decided to set the Jewish slaves free and let them return to their homeland of Israel. The people who walked in darkness are the Jews returning home from their exile. For weeks, people saw huge caravans of people, refugees walking back home. The journey must have been punishing, but that which helped them to keep going was the fact that they were all going home. I think about the images of the millions of refugees who walked all across Europe after WW2, trying to find their homes and families. Isaiah goes on to say, they have seen a great light. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing. A really hot topic today is what to do with all the refugees trekking across the globe. It makes me sad when I hear whole societies rejecting these people and telling them to go back home. I get the economics. We can't afford to take many more, our economy can't sustain it. What really makes me mad is when people start complaining that the valuation of their homes is affected by these refugees coming into our neighborhoods. That sounds a bit selfish. Refugees in every age are people like ourselves trying to survive. Instead of creating more hardship, we should be doing everything we can to try to make their lives a little bit better. You had all those millionaires in California living in their mansions. Then the whole place went up in flames, and now all there is left is a vast desert of ruin. Let us be reminded, in a minute we might become the Hebrew slaves walking the road across Galilee. We have lost everything. All that keeps us going is that there is light ahead. We are leaving the darkness behind us.



With love,  
Fr. Pat