

From the Pastor's Office

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus says in the gospel today, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." The truth is, maybe, sometimes, occasionally, but not always. Jesus puts all these titles on me and maybe I don't deserve them. I am not particularly committed to my Christian life. I put money in the collection plate sometimes. I know I should do more, but I choose not to. Hear the advice of the prophet Isaiah today, "The Lord says, share your bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, do not turn your back on your own." Isaiah goes on, "Remove from your midst oppression, false accusation, malicious speech. Bestow your bread on the hungry. Satisfy the afflicted." In order to be an authentic follower of God, and of my Christian life, I need to do these things. I don't do these things. I like it when someone else does it for me. I proclaim my faith, but I barely practice it. I have a beef with lots of you. You all tell me how much you are behind me. We need a new air conditioning system installed. People came to me and said, absolutely, we are right behind you. That is just talk. Most of you will offer not one dollar to help us out. Is my version of Christianity just all talk? If my Christianity is all talk, then what am I doing around here? What did Jesus say? If you are the cause of even one person to stray from God, it would be better if they tied a millstone around your neck and throw you into the sea. Jesus asks me for a firm commitment to follow Him and live according to His commandments. He doesn't give me permission to water that down. I don't get to write an alternative version of the commandments to suit myself. That is what many people precisely do. They live a version of the Christian life, their own version. Let's stop doing that. Whoever said this so simply, thank you. "Mean what you say and say what you mean."



With love,
Fr. Pat