



Things to Ponder

- [About the Author](#)
- [Order](#)
- [About the Book](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Readers' Comments](#)
- [News & Events](#)
- [A Prayer for the Day](#)
- [Things To Shout Out!](#)
- [Things to Ponder](#)
- [My Favorite Quotes](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Contact](#)
- [Home](#)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (and also about Lent)

Dear Parish Family,

On a rare occasion a prophet or mystic might have an overwhelming experience of the presence of God. In those moments, time seems to stand still and the individual is left with a memory that will endure for the rest of his or her life. These encounters are not meant for the individual person's sake alone. As in today's readings (Luke 5:1-11), they serve as a commissioning of the prophet or disciple to a new way of life in public ministry.

In a few days, we begin the holy season of Lent with a common commissioning. We accept the ashes as a sign that together we begin an intense time of preparation to renew our commitment to follow Jesus. We do not expect extraordinary visions. In fact, we are likely to be tempted to stray from our faith. Lent is an opportunity to fast so as to spend a little more time in prayer and to focus our attention on the needs of others. During this special time of retreat, the reflective person will become more aware of two realities: (1) how God has been revealed in many small and ordinary ways; and (2) how the individual has responded to God's presence whether negatively or positively. We really ought to perform such an examination of conscience on a daily basis; but Lent provides this opportunity not only for us as individuals but also for us as Church. We will conclude the season of Lent with the three-day season known as "Triduum." On these most holy days of the year we gaze at the cross as the ultimate act of mercy and then, at Easter, renew our vows of baptism - our commitment to die to self and live for Christ!

Blessed Lent,

Rev. Bill Foley

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—February 7, 2016, St. Patrick's Church,
Olney, Maryland

Published with the permission of Rev. William E. Foley, Pastor

