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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – August 30, 2015

Dear Parish Family,

What is it that gives rise to fundamentalism in religion? I suggest that it has to do with the insecurity of the world and the unstable nature of family life. Children actually do long for
boundaries and guidelines, even though they will always test them. The Pharisees were the descendants of the Maccabees, whose adherence to the Law of Moses was a heroic stand
against the imposition of Greek culture. Their descendants are the present-day Hassidic (or Orthodox) Jews. Rules are necessary for an orderly society, but they are not ends in!
themselves. When their purpose is lost, one must re-examine them. Thus, Jesus said to the Pharisees:

> "You disregard God's commandment
> and cling to human tradition."
> (Mark 7,8)

God had commanded mercy, not rigid conformance to a code of behavior. Religion is intended to provide rules and guidelines that promote healthy and life-giving relationships with God and
neighbor. Thus, the apostle James said:

> "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God
> and the Father is this: to care for orphans and
> widows in their affliction and to keep oneself
> unstained by the world."
> (James 1,27)

Next weekend, all of us will be asked to make a commitment to Walk with Francis. In other words, we are being asked to live the joy of the gospel by serving others. What does this mean for you and for your family?

Sincerely in Our Lord,

Rev. Bill Foley

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—August 30, 2015, St. Patrick's Church, Olney, Maryland

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