



Things to Ponder

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12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Parish Family:

Are senseless acts of violence increasing in our world; or are we simply being made more aware of the tragedies that occur on a daily basis?

Some years ago, as I was preparing for the solemn feast of *Corpus Christi*, a distraught parishioner called to tell me that the father of two of our school children had killed his wife and subsequently taken his own life. Later that day we were to take the Eucharist in procession right by their home! People kept asking the unanswerable question *why?* Our second reading today from St. Paul's *Letter to the Romans* (Romans 5:12-15) reminds us that evil is not of God; yet God so respects human freedom as to permit us to choose evil. The only antidote to the scourge of evil, begun by *original sin*, is the victory won by the saving death and resurrection of Jesus. I shared this truth later that fateful week with a crowded Church of confused and grieving people from many different religious backgrounds. Months after that event, someone showed me a copy of *People's Magazine* wherein a reporter had quoted me. The murdered woman had been a well-known novelist.

The Scriptures today challenge us to stir into flame the gift of courage that has been bestowed upon us in *baptism and confirmation*. Who knows where and when we will be required to *witness* to the truths of our faith and that hope that springs from faith in them?

Yours in Christ,

Father William Foley

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—June 25, 2017, St. Patrick's Church,
Olney, Maryland

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