



## Things to Ponder

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## Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Luke 9:51-62

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Dear Parish Family,

A central theme of the *Gospel of St. Luke* is that of the *journey*. Today's passage begins:

“When the days for his being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.”  
(Luke 9,51)

Twenty-five years ago, I began a term as a pastor in a parish that had recently suffered great turmoil. I knew that people were wondering what might be my agenda. On my first Sunday, I made it clear that my agenda was formed long ago when I first learned about my faith in the *catechism*. My goal is simply to know, love and serve God here so as to live with God forever in the next life. The means for achieving that goal became clearer to me when my childhood dream of *doing what the priest does at the altar* came true on the day of my ordination. Shortly after coming to another challenging assignment, a priest asked me how I liked the new parish. I simply responded: “*I love being a priest.*”

When we are serious about following Jesus and realize what is meant by the phrase being taken up, the journey can be difficult. Temptations to delay or abandon it emerge. Then the phrase with which the gospel of today concludes needs to be recalled:

“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.”  
(Luke 9, 62)

Yours in Christ

*Rev. Bill Foley*

