



## Things to Ponder

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## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Luke 10:38-42

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Dear Parish Family,

Our spiritual ancestors were desert-dwellers who travelled through the arid region of what are now the countries of Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel. They were looking for oases for water and pasture land for their herds. The climate was harsh; and it was almost an un-written law of the land that one

would offer hospitality to fellow pilgrims in the desert. Today's first reading has been portrayed in art and in spirituality as Abraham's encounter with the Trinity. Three visitors stopped by his tent; and, after having received the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah, they predicted that Sarah would soon conceive and bear a son. Sarah laughed; she was far beyond the normal age for childbearing.

Similar visitations have occurred elsewhere in Sacred Scripture; each represents a unique and intimate experience of the living God, whose mercy endures forever. Jesus was the privileged guest and friend of Martha and Mary. Martha offered him the typical Jewish hospitality one would expect; but Mary gave him another form of hospitality. She sat at his feet and listened.

During these summer days, we are invited to slow down and listen to our own experience in the light of Holy Scripture. When have we been visited by God? How have we responded?

Yours in Christ,

*Rev. Bill Foley*

From the Pastor's Note—Weekly Bulletin—July 17, 2016, St. Patrick's Church,  
Olney, Maryland

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