



Things to Ponder

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Homily – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Based on Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Dear Parish Family,

Among my many cherished memories are those of hiking, especially in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. When the opportunity arises, I still love to go on a hike in these familiar mountains. At times, I have gone for several days on challenging backpacking adventures. This, however, requires careful preparation and scheduling. Inevitably, once the journey has begun, various obstacles present themselves. Frequently, the anticipated view is obliterated by clouds.

The spiritual journey to God, in which we are all engaged, has often been likened to such a hike. The physical and psychological difficulties encountered can almost act as barriers to progress. On more than one occasion, I, as a leader of such an expedition, have been tested by my followers, who almost threaten mutiny. "Trust is precious and tenuous.

Joshua challenged the tribes of Israel at Shechem: "decide today whom you will serve." Jesus knew that his discourse on the Eucharist (which we have been hearing for the past month) was hard for some to take. Paul recognized that the Christian approach to the gift of sexuality was alien to the attitudes of the Greco-Roman world in which he lived.

As many begin a new academic year in the days ahead, we are challenged to renew our way of thinking. A well-trained mind can help form the heart and influence the will to choose the good; yet, the clouds often hide the goal and test our resolve. We are all encouraged to persevere and to renew our commitment in the same spirit as Peter, who said to Jesus: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Bill Foley

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