



## Things to Ponder

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### Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – February 19, 2017

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Dear Parish Family,

Have you ever been bullied? I have: and I survived! How was this possible? I learned the power of the Blessed Sacrament. I directed my attention to my academic pursuits. I relied on the support of a loving family.

Today's gospel (Matthew 5:38-48) is taken from that portion of the Sermon on the Mount wherein Jesus urged his followers to be more holy by turning the other cheek. Reflect with me on Bishop Robert Barron's interpretation of that controversial phrase:

**“Since one would never have used the left hand for any sort of interaction, the striking on the right cheek would have been done with the back of the right hand. But this was precisely the way that a master would treat a slave, or how someone would express contempt for a social inferior. To turn the other cheek, therefore, is to stand one's ground in the face of violence and offer a challenge: you will not treat me in this aggressive way. In so doing, the recipient of the slap effectively mirrors the injustice back to the perpetrator. He thereby challenges his aggressor to see and to repent.”**

Who are those to whom you must stand in opposition? Would they rather not have you react with violence or cowardice? What action might best mirror their pettiness and invite them to a change of heart?

Yours in Christ,

*Father William Foley*

