



Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, we celebrate the 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. It doesn't sound very special, does it? This season of the church year is very – "ordinary." It seems rather exaggerated to say we "celebrate" such an ordinary occasion. There are 34 weeks of Ordinary Time in the church's yearly calendar, so this 17th Sunday marks the middle of the season. We are also in the middle of summer. And we are still in the middle of the year 2020, a year like no other. We have been through a lot this year and there is more to come.

All of this made me think about the passage of time. Just as the year is a continuum of time that goes from beginning to end, from season to season, so too is life. Where are you on that continuum? Spring, summer, fall or winter? I don't know about you, but I feel like I am right smack in the middle of "ordinary time." I am beginning my eighth year as Pastor of St. Andrew Parish, and I am hoping for at least six more. I often have to remind myself of what year it is, and that I am 64 years old. It is later than I think it is. I may not be as young as I used to be, but I still want to take each day as it comes.

There is a psalm that says, "Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart." I think that is a very good prayer for us on this 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time. So often, we are busy looking ahead, planning the next thing, striving for some future goal, and wondering what's next that we fail to live in the present moment. We do not live THIS DAY fully or appreciate it. All of our past days have brought us to the present and our experiences remain a part of us. But we shouldn't dwell on or brood over the past. We can't turn the clock back. Wherever we find ourselves on the continuum of life, remember, God has brought you to this day. This day is unique. This day is God's gift to you. Live it fully. You can appreciate your past and the wisdom you have acquired. You can look with hope for your future which is hidden. But today, THIS DAY, is for living and doing and experiencing now – even if it is only "ordinary time."

May God bless you all this day!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney