

## Pastoral Reflection

### Third Sunday

### in Ordinary Time

Some things never change! In the second reading this weekend, Paul in First Corinthians says: "It has been reported to me that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, 'I belong to Paul' or 'I belong to Apollos' or 'I belong to Cephas' or 'I belong to Christ' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you?" Now we hear, I am a Democrat or I am a Trumper or I am a conservative Republican or I am pro- Pope Francis or I am very Catholic or I am Pro-Life or am pro- Second Amendment etc. And why was Christ crucified!? Can we really look at the cross and keep on hunkering down in our favorite camp. I am amazed at how Pope Francis can meet with folks who really don't like him and yet come out smiling. I think he has a way of getting inside the heart. I remember when I had the opportunity to speak with St. Teresa of Calcutta on the playground of Sacred Heart School. Mother Teresa had "eyes" that could see right into your heart. You knew that you were loved. Now That's evangelization!

We are in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time but this is no "ordinary time". I can never remember such rancor and vilification. We need to continue to "look up" from what is right in front of us and see the "star" that led to the light of the world. If we keep looking down, we will get ground down. Look up and over! There is more to life than "getting my point across" or "tearing apart" someone else's stance. Get a life, give life. We have Christ crucified to give.

Happy Ordinary Time!

—Fr. Jack (he/him)