

JULY 10, 2005: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“DISCERNMENT”

Hopefully these months of summer, July and August, will be a time of greater relaxation and recreation.

Take advantage of changed schedules and routines, and spend time in reflection on your life in relation to God. Take some time for discernment.

Discernment is a sifting of our own experience to find where God is or is not in our lives. The main task of discernment is to ask oneself, “*Am I allowing God and my faith community to influence and direct my choices? Or am I just ‘doing my own thing’?*”

I share with you some questions for reflection that may help you in your process of discernment:

- 1) Recall your story – What was one, or some, event/occurrence/influence that brought you to faith in Jesus and keeps you within the Catholic Church?
- 2) Can you identify some things that have changed in your life in the past several months?
- 3) How do you let God into your life?
- 4) How do you pray?
- 5) When do you pray?
- 6) How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?
- 7) Can you name three areas of your life that you want to change?

May these words of Thomas Merton strengthen you for the journey of discernment:

“Looking for God is like seeing a path in a field of snow. If there is no path and you are looking for one, walk across it and there is the path.”

Happy discerning!

F. Mike