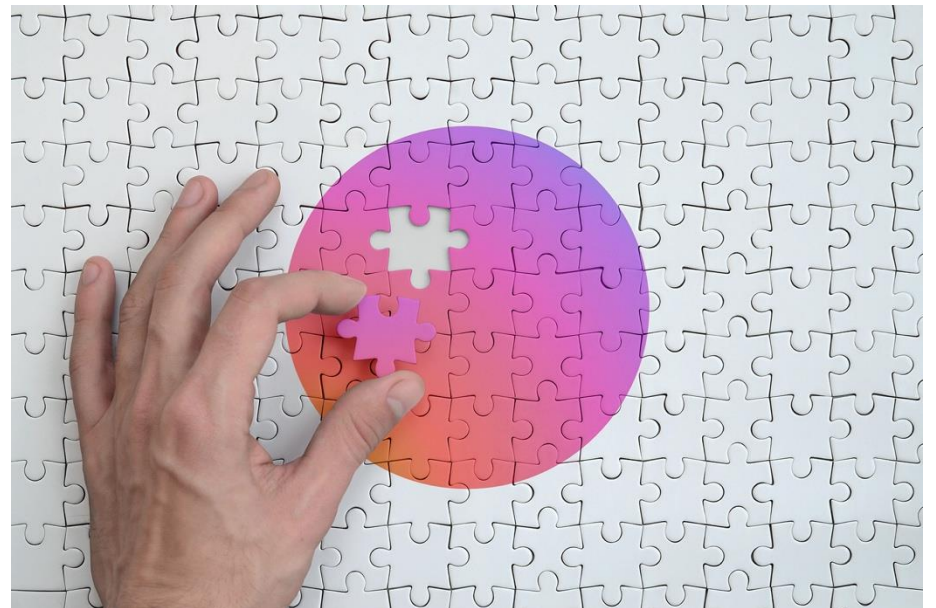


Scripture Passages

- John 15:1-10—Vine and Branches
- Luke 24:13-35—Road to Emmaus
- Acts 2:1-4—Coming of the Holy Spirit
- John 6:66-71—Words of Eternal Life

St. Simon Parish **Second Mountain Retreat** -- Session 8 --



Blessing for The Traveler

(John O'Donohue)

Every time you leave home,
Another road takes you
Into a world you were never in.

New strangers on other paths await.
New places that have never seen you
Will startle a little at your entry.
Old places that know you well
Will pretend nothing
Changed since your last visit.

When you travel, you find yourself
Alone in a different way,
More attentive now
To the self you bring along,
Your more subtle eye watching
You abroad; and how what meets you
Touches that part of the heart
That lies low at home:

How you unexpectedly attune
To the timbre in some voice,
Opening a conversation
You want to take in

To where your longing
Has pressed hard enough
Inward, on some unsaid dark,
To create a crystal of insight

You could not have known
You needed
To illuminate
Your way.

When you travel,
A new silence
Goes with you,
And if you listen,
You will hear
What your heart would
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing:

Make sure, before you go,
To take the time

To bless your going forth,
To free your heart of ballast

So that the compass of your soul

Might direct you toward

The territories of spirit

Where you will discover

More of your hidden life,

And the urgencies

That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.

May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest;
Return home more enriched, and free
To balance the gift of days which call you.
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Reflection Questions

- As you reflect on the puzzle of your life, what is the highlight of who you discover yourself to be?
- How differently would you treat someone was dying?
- How do I give my life away more generously?
- With whom am I committed to on this journey? Do I need to find companionship or offer it?