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16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
July 21-22, 2018

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Questions, Comments Suggestions?  
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## Living Catholic in the 808: My Fourth and Walnut Moment Part I

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“When (Jesus) disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.” Mark 6:34

After one very powerful silent retreat a few years back. I had a layover and was in line at McDonalds. The woman in front of me started yelling at the youth waiting on her. Though she did not pay for double fries and he was giving her more for free, she just kept yelling. (I think she wanted her money back for her entire order.)

Standing there, mute and helpless, my whole being ached. Like Jesus, I was moved with pity for the youth, unable to calm the woman no matter what he did. But my heart also ached for the woman – she must have been so very broken, so unhappy, deep down, to get so upset about a missing order of fries.

Like Thomas Merton’s ‘Fourth and Walnut’ moment, I “was suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all those people, that they were mine and I theirs, that we could not be alien to one another even though we were total strangers. It was like waking from a dream of separateness, of spurious self-isolation in a special world” **Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander**

Continued next week.....