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Good morning, good God!

I'm on vacation, Lord:
grateful for the time off, the time away
and grateful, too, for the work

that's mine to do,
my share in the work that is always yours...

I'm grateful for my staff and parish ministers
whose good hearts and hands
hold gently and securely
the people you've entrusted to our care;
and for brother priests who'll come

to stand at your Tables of Word and Sacrament
while I'm away...

I pray this morning, Lord,

those who have lost a job and seek work

and for those who are overworked

and need rest
- and for those who have no vacation time...

Let me not take for granted, Lord,
the work that's mine
and this time for rest, relaxation
and refreshment in your Spirit...

I'm reminded of the times you rested, Lord:
when you went away from the crowds:
out of the city, into the desert,
up the mountain, to the other side of the sea,
off by yourself or with just a few friends,
to pray...

I wonder at how you waited, Lord,

waited some 30 years
before beginning the work you came to do...

I remember your words to [Martha](http://www.usccb.org/nab/bible/luke/luke10.htm#v38),
how you reminded her that Mary, her sister,
had chosen the better part:
to sit quietly by your side, to be near you,
to listen for your voice, to hear your word,
to simply *be* *with* you...

Slow me down, Lord, and let the busyness

that runs me and runs inside me
settle to a pace and a peace that lets me be,

be with you, in a quiet place where I can hear
what your heart speaks to mine...

I'm not on retreat, Lord, but part of every day,
at work or on vacation,

should be a time of retreat,

a time for slowing down and being with you,
listening for your word, every day,
on vacation or not...

While I'm away, Lord,
your work in my parish moves right along
as it will one day when I'm no longer there;
you don't need us for what you do, Lord,
it's we who need you and your Spirit
for the work we do in your name...

In this time off, in this place away,
let me find again the peace

of being at your side, remembering

how you are always right by mine...

Open my eyes and heart, Lord,
to those whose paths cross mine
these vacation days,
and when and where I can,
let me be there for them
and see how they are there for me...

Such is my prayer this morning, Lord,
all through this day

and through the week that lies ahead…

Amen.