



September is a busy month in every parish - and in many of our parish households, too. I find that the busier things are the more likely my pet peeves will rise to the surface. Here's a prayer I wrote for my blog (ConcordPastor.blogspot.com) - perhaps it's a prayer you can use, too. - Fr. Fleming

You know all my pet peeves, Lord -
even those I've yet to discover...

You know the little things that others do
that tick me off, light my fuse
and push my buttons...

You know the things that irritate and aggravate,
exasperate, infuriate and agitate me -
as if I were the center of the universe
(whom all should handle with kid gloves
especially when it comes to things,
the little things, that grate on me and on
my way of doing things, *my* way of saying things,
my way of wanting things to go...

My pet peeves, Lord: my bugbears,
my personal vexations, my petty hang-ups,
my obsessions all reveal me as self-centered,
demanding, proud and conceited making me
overbearing, smug and pompous -
not to mention *eminently unlikable!*

So,
help me see my pet peeves, all of them, Lord,
help me see them for what they usually are:
arrogant presumptions
about how the world would be
had it been made as I would have it...

Make me humble, Lord, and modest:
accepting of my neighbors' faults
respectful of their ways of doing things and
saying things, the little things,
that differ from my own...

Relieve me of any notion that *my* way
is the best way,
the only way,
that my first thought is brilliant,
that I am always right...

Let no small matters come between
my neighbor and myself
for when they do, then clearly, Lord,
they come twixt you and me...

Amen.

