

# Lenten Series: Flannery O'Connor

## “It’s Complicated”

### WELCOME:

### OPENING PRAYER: Fr Smith (the collect of the day)

Bestow on us, we pray, O Lord,  
a spirit of always pondering on  
what is right  
and of hastening to carry it out,  
and, since without you we cannot  
exist,  
may we be enabled to live  
according to your will.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in  
the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.



### READING FROM SCRIPTURE:

#### A reading from the book of Genesis:

Now the serpent was the most cunning of all the animals that the LORD God had made. The serpent asked the woman, “Did God really tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?”

<sup>2</sup> The woman answered the serpent: “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden;

<sup>3</sup> it is only about the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden that God said, ‘You shall not eat it or even touch it, lest you die.’”

<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman: “You certainly will not die!

<sup>5</sup> No, God knows well that the moment you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods who know what is good and what is bad.”

<sup>6</sup> The woman saw that the tree was good for food, pleasing to the eyes, and desirable for gaining wisdom. So she took some of its fruit and ate it; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it

The Word of the Lord:

# INTRODUCTION AND REFLECTION: Fr Smith

## BREAKOUT INTO GROUPS

### REFLECTION SCRIPTURES:

1) For if a man with gold rings on his fingers and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in,  
<sup>3</sup> and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here, please,” while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet,”  
<sup>4</sup> have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs? (Jas 2:2–4).

2) Then the LORD addressed Job out of the storm and said:

<sup>2</sup> Who is this that obscures divine plans  
with words of ignorance?

<sup>3</sup> Gird up your loins now, like a man;  
I will question you, and you tell me the answers!

<sup>4</sup> Where were you when I founded the earth?  
Tell me, if you have understanding.

<sup>5</sup> Who determined its size; do you know?

Who stretched out the measuring line for it (Job 38:1-5)

3) Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

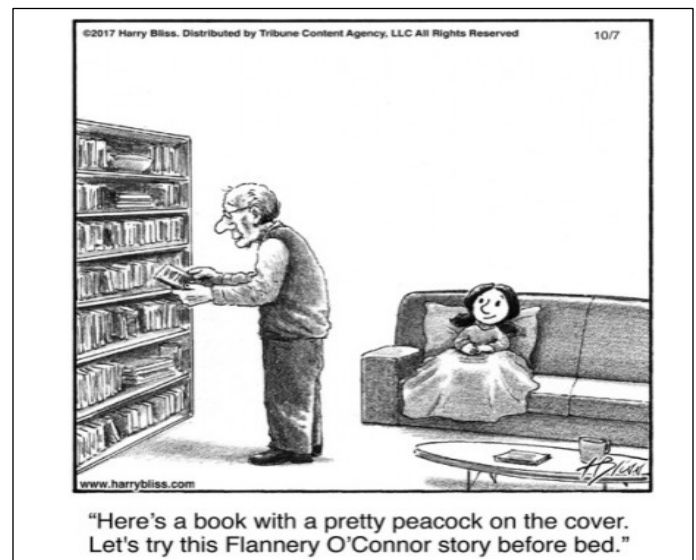
<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

<sup>36</sup> naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ (Mt 25:34–36).

### RETURN TO LARGE GROUP:

Common Discussion

### FINAL BLESSING: Fr Robinson



*Next Meeting will be next Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at Grace Church*