

**(From Week 2/2/2014)**

I would like to thank Father John Kirwin for joining us this weekend and sharing with us the remarkable work being done by "Unbound", a critical outreach of the Catholic Church that serves the poor in 21 developing countries. I would like to also thank Deacon Charlie Valenti, the staff and everyone for extending hospitality to him. I will be gone for nearly two weeks and return on February 12th. I'm on a vacation visiting friends in several cities from Boston to Baltimore and hope to spend some time by myself in a retreat center along the way. As of this writing, I am unsure of all my plans and will be flexible based on weather. Some of the uncertainties remind me of a beautiful piece that was included in "Thoughts in Solitude" by Thomas Merton. As I promise to pray for you, as well, please enjoy this special prayer:

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Father George