People often ask me where I get my stories or illustrations for my homilies, and if the truth be told, I have a lot of sources. I have a fairly extensive file of “Homily Stories” that I have collected and somewhat categorized through the years.

Since today’s first and second readings spoke around the theme of wisdom, I went to the wisdom tab and found this. It is called, If I Had My Life to Live Over…

I’m not sure where it comes from…One source says Erma Bombeck, another Nadine Stair, a third says Don Herold… a final one says that it is a collection of quotes taken from reader submissions to Reader’s Digest in the 1970’s…so I really don’t know…but it is good wisdom.

If I had my life to live over, I'd dare to make more mistakes next time.
I'd relax, I would limber up. I would be sillier than I have been this trip.
I would take fewer things seriously. I would take more chances.
I would climb more mountains and swim more rivers.
I would eat more ice cream and less beans.
I would perhaps have more actual troubles, but I'd have fewer imaginary ones.
You see, I'm one of those people who lived sensibly and sanely, hour after hour, day after day.
Oh, I've had my moments, and if I had to do it over again, I'd have more of them.
In fact, I'd try to have nothing else. Just moments, one after another, instead of living so many years ahead of each day.
I've been one of those persons who never goes anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat and a parachute.
If I had to do it again, I would travel lighter.

If I had my life to live over again I would listen to children and answer their questions.
I would spend more time praying for others and less time praying for myself.
I would treat my parents with more respect and visit grandma more often.
If I had my life to live over again I would marry Tom Selleck, but I would get married much later. I would get a dog much sooner. I would retire much sooner and I’d color my hair much sooner.

If I had my life to live over I would go to the Symphony and to the Theater. I would learn to play the piano and fly an airplane but never at the same time.

If I had my life to live over I would take more vacations, play more golf, read more books and watch less TV. If I had my life to live over I would just stop and look…and I would listen.

End quote…

Today’s first and second readings are all about wisdom… But it’s not our wisdom they are about, it is God’s wisdom.

Perhaps it would be wise to say, Yes, I’ve had some regrets… and there are some things I would do differently. Maybe wisdom, God’s wisdom, is saying yes there are things I would have done differently, but I can’t change those… and giving those things to God… But wisdom is also saying…But some things I can change… Some things I can choose to do differently.

So, If you had your life to live over again… What would you do?