

### **Thoughts on the Daily Word:**

*15<sup>th</sup> Week of Year. Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Readings: Exodus 12:37-42; Psalm: 135; Matthew 12:14-21.*

An exodus experience is a common one in history where a community needs to retreat to reform and prepare for a new beginning. Sometimes that fails and the new beginning doesn't happen as planned. John the Baptist is the symbol of that withdrawal into the desert and re-enacting the crossing of the Jordan. Jesus himself goes into the desert in the Temptation stories. The Baptist's withdrawal leads to something totally unexpected, the birth of the Christian movement. We remember and are asked to relive an exodus experience every winter with the coming of Spring, we call it Lent. It is a time of preparation that demands some withdrawal and some gathering together. That is the rhythm of Lent that sometimes we miss out. Denial during the weekdays and then gathering to rejoice on the Lord's Day. It is meant to be a pattern for our spiritual journey, something that each of us is invited to discover.