

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A mom and her five-year-old son were heading to McDonald's one day, they passed a car accident. Usually when they see something terrible like that, they say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so she pointed and said to her son, "We should pray." From the back seat she heard her son's earnest voice: "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."

Dear Friends,

We are gathered here as faithful members of God in the community. We are witnessing our faith. Faith is the basic element that brings us together. St. Thomas Aquinas says, "To one who has Faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without Faith, no explanation is possible."

Today's readings talk about faith and how it works in our daily lives. We all believe in God. There is more than one way to believe. The first reading defines Faith as trusting in God and His Covenant with us. Here, Faith is presented as trust and steadfast expectation in the face of suffering and delay.

Habakkuk was a minor prophet who lived during the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. He encouraged his fellow Jews to retain their Faith during this disaster. He interprets Faith as a persistent confidence in God's saving power. The first two chapters of the Book of Habakkuk are in the form of a dialogue between the prophet and God. God assures the prophet that although "the rash one" is one who does not believe, and "has no integrity." The "just one", because of his Faith, will live" because he will lead a righteous life in the midst of encircling evil".

In the second reading, St. Paul presents Faith as our acceptance of Jesus as the fulfillment of the promises of God. Paul stresses the need for a living Faith in, and loyalty to, Christ's teachings handed down to us by the Church.

God's presence and His vision are not immediately visible to the naked eye. Faith becomes the lens a person needs to see, with Divine light, beyond the limits of human sight. This "faith-seeing" gives everything its proper sacred character. St. Augustine tells us that, "faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

The apostles were close friends of Jesus who traveled with him on the road to the discipleship journey. They needed some help in their faith journey because of different situations in life.

The apostles wanted faith. Faith not to despair at the inevitable suffering and evil that are a part of life. Faith to patiently wait to know that God's vision still has its time and will not disappoint. Faith to forgive unconditionally even when hurt in the harshest way. Faith to love, especially those who are most difficult to love and those who have wronged us. Faith to welcome the sinner, comfort those who are afflicted, break a Sabbath rule when a situation calls for mercy and compassion, and to work for justice and find nonviolent solutions to conflicts. Faith to step aside so that someone else can be first. Faith to know that God is love and that how we treat one another reflects our love for God. Faith to know that it is God's kingdom that must be built and not our own and faith to know that it is only in dying that we find eternal life.

Jesus tells us to be grateful to God through our faith. No one is closer to Jesus than Mary. There is an inseparable bond between mother and son. She showed her faith by being grateful To God.

The world we live has a lot of challenges to the faith. We basically are losing our moral values on the whole. As faithful, we are weakening ourselves in our faith. Let us also pray to God to increase our faith and morality.