

Homily

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

How many of you came here in a car, either as the driver or a passenger?

How many of you had faith that the other drivers on the road would not crash into you?

How many of you have faith that the next breath you take will actually be there?

We all have faith; often, we take it for granted because things happen and rarely fail us.

In our homes, our electricity supplies us until it doesn't. Our water flows until it doesn't. Our refrigerator runs until it doesn't. We have faith that these things will continue, until they don't.

I Googled faith and found that it is, "complete trust or confidence in someone or something."

Merriam-Webster states faith is, "Something that is believed especially with strong conviction."

In Hebrews, faith, "is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen."

How many of you believe in heaven and hell? How many of you have faith that if we follow Jesus, we will reach heaven?

How many of you have faith that the bread and the wine that is offered on this altar becomes Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity through the words spoken by our priest?

How many of you have faith that if Jesus said, "Come," you could walk on water?

First, if Jesus were standing in front of me, I'd be too busy, my nose to the ground, groveling at His feet. But, just like Peter when Jesus said "come," I probably wouldn't make it far.

But remember, when Jesus pulled Peter out of the water, He said, "O you of little faith."

Jesus didn't say, "O you of no faith." Jesus acknowledges Peter's faith, as little as it was. Jesus wants us to be like Him, perfect as the Father is perfect.

And our job is to strive for perfection, knowing we probably won't make it. But that's okay.

Jesus said to the Canaanite woman, just this past Wednesday in the Gospel reading, "great is your faith," when she asked him to heal her daughter, and He did.

How great is your faith? It doesn't take much, but it takes some. And it needs to be cultivated. Just like the mustard seed, the smallest of seeds – plant it and it grows to be the biggest of plants.

But planted among weeds and its growth is thwarted.

We must take time to cultivate ourselves, take time to drink in goodness, take time to avoid darkness.

I know it may sound simple but it works; pray often – even if it's just a few minutes at a time, but make it a habit. You're here now – this is a great way to feed our soul's.

We feed ourselves on the Word of God and are nourished by His Sacrament.

And avoid those things that take us down the wrong path. I watch the news – too much. It makes me sad and angry. I need to cut back.

Take time to think about what we do that feeds us and what we do that drains us.

A good tool is the Examination of Conscience at the end of the day; we spend time, just a few minutes, thinking about what brought us closer to Jesus and what distracted us.

Also think about what we did that added to those around us, and what we did that took away. And then we strive to do better.

Peter had the right idea – he was focused on Jesus when Jesus said, “Come.” Peter walked on water. It was only when he looked around and saw how strong the wind was that he sank. He took his focus off Jesus.

We just need to stay focused on Jesus, in all we do, in all we say.

Isn't it true that when we are focused on Jesus, things just go better, even when things are bad?

Isn't it also true that we most often focus on Jesus when things aren't going well?

Let's try to spend more time focusing on Jesus, especially when things are going well, throughout our day and throughout our week.

Let's see what happens.

Maybe we can walk on water.