

Homily
Memorial of Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Monday of the 17th Week in OT
July 29, 2024

It's easy for me to stand here and tell you I believe, that I have faith. For the most part, I do; I believe in the Resurrection; I believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; I believe that those who believe in Jesus will never die. Then why do I so often rely on my own earthly wisdom to deal with life's many challenges? Why do I depend on myself to solve my problems?

Recently, I accidentally deleted an important section of a necessary spreadsheet and couldn't seem to retrieve it. I tried several methods to no avail. In a panic, I prayed to the Blessed Virgin, begging her to show me the way. Then it happened – she showed me the way. Within seconds, the method I needed to retrieve the deleted section of my spreadsheet appeared. Why don't I rely on God more often?

Martha had faith. She knew Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Even in her grief, she knew Jesus could ask His Father for anything and His Father would provide. Why don't I have that same unaltering, unwavering faith? All too often, I only look around me, horizontally as it were, to seek answers. I ask Alexa, search Google, open a reference manual, check my notes. But I don't often enough seek the help of the Almighty, who truly wants me to seek His help.

In our first reading, God using the rather graphic image of underwear to demonstrate that earthly remedies fail us. Things in this world rot with time. In our pride, we seem to think we know better. Because of Free Will, God allows us to think this way, but He loves us too much to let us trip over our own feet. Or maybe He allows us to trip only to help us learn an important lesson. In His Great Plan, He uses earthly things to remind us of His dominion over all and wants us to rely on Him, to look vertically, as it were, to seek His wisdom.

This is why I believe praying unceasingly is so important; when we are in constant communion with God, His assistance is ready on the spot. This is why giving thanks in all things is so critical, because it is God's way of reminding us He's in charge, and that's a good thing. This is why God gave us His only Son to be one with us in all ways but sin, so that we have a remedy, in the Passion of His cross and in His Sacraments, especially in His Body and Blood which we will soon receive.

When things happen that challenge us, and that is every day, usually several times a day, we have a remedy in our merciful Father, His loving Son and the grace of the Holy Spirit. We grow in faith when we embrace God's grace freely given. And we share that grace when we go into the world being Christ for one another, relying on Him, not ourselves.