

Faith and Trust

Homily for October 5, 2025

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “Faith is both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the truth that God has revealed. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the sacraments, live by right conduct that fulfills the twofold commandment of charity, and respond to in our prayer of faith. Faith is both a theological virtue given by God as grace and an obligation that flows from the first commandment of God.” CCC-glossary 878-879.

In today’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ apostles say to Him, “Increase our faith.” The Lord replies, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea’, and it would obey you.” Lk.17:5-6. What Jesus means is that the amount of faith you have is not important; but whatever size you have, you must also have trust. Faith and trust go hand in hand.

Faith is a gift, and God is the source and giver of that gift. The Gospel passages we have read over the past couple of Sundays have prompted the disciples to ask Jesus to increase their faith—the parables of the prodigal son, the dishonest steward, and Lazarus and the rich man all point to a reality that God’s ways are different from our ways. They remind us that if we are to be faithful disciples, we must take our cues not from the world, but from Christ, who reveals to us the very mind of God.

By asking Jesus for an increase of faith, the disciples acknowledge that He is the source of this supernatural faith, and that such faith is not the result of human strength or willpower but a pure gift from God. Since it is a gift, it can never be seen as something we can boast about as our own achievement. We are servants of the word, and when we respond to it, we are simply doing our duty, as told in today’s Gospel: “When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’” Lk.17:10.

Being a faith-filled Christian isn't just about having an inner conviction, but also about having the courage and strength to live out that faith daily. Jesus encourages us that we only need a little trust, the size of a mustard seed, in His strength to carry us through in this life. It is only through trusting and having faith in God that we can stand strong and be helpful, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. As Paul states in the second reading from the second letter to Timothy: “Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the Holy Spirit that dwells within us.” 2 Tim. 1:13-14.