Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:
Sunday August 16, 2020

Lead Story Headline:
Great Faith

"...these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer..."
Isaiah 56:7

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Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

“One day a woman from Canaan came to Jesus and cried, “O Lord, Son of David, help me! My daughter is suffering terribly because she has an evil spirit in her.” But Jesus didn’t say anything. His disciples were upset with the woman and said to Jesus, “Tell that woman to go away. She’s following us around and keeps shouting at us to help her.” But Jesus said to them, “I came for the people of Israel. I am here to save my people who are lost.” But the woman came and knelt in front of Jesus and said, “Please, Lord, help me.” Jesus said, “It isn’t fair to take the children’s food and give it to the dogs.” The woman said, “Yes, Lord, that’s true. But even the dogs are allowed to eat the scraps that fall off their master’s table.” Jesus said to her, “You are a woman with great faith and you will have what you asked for.” At that very moment, her daughter got well.”

This is the Good News of the Lord.

"You are a woman with great faith and you will have what you asked for."
Matthew 15:28

What Do You Think?

1. Did Jesus answer the woman right away? What did he do? Why do you think he did this?

2. Think of a time when you felt welcomed. Describe this time. How did you respond?

Check It Out:

Check out another piece of Scripture that talks about faith in God! Look in your Bible for John 20:24-29. This is all about when Jesus appears to Thomas and Thomas doubts that it is really him. Why do you think he reacts this way? How do you think you would have reacted?

Activity: Finding Faith

Have you ever thought about some of the reasons that we have to believe in God? There are three simple reasons that we can have faith in God:

1. All the wonders of creation.
   a. If you look around you, there are so many things about creation that are marvelous and hard to comprehend. Look at your own body, all of the parts of it that work and move! Look at nature, the beautiful colours of the sky, thunder and lightning, and all the different animals! Everywhere we look we see how amazing creation is! We believe that someone powerful had to create all of this and that someone is God!

2. The knowledge of right and wrong.
   a. We all know the difference between right and wrong and can understand how we are supposed to act. We believe that someone put in our hearts to know the difference between the two. We believe that God is responsible for this.

3. The desire for happiness.
   a. Everyone really wants to be happy. But material things - money, our toys, our clothes - will never truly make us happy. What will make us happy forever will be when we can get to heaven and be with God.

God is responsible for each of these things. These are three reasons why we know and believe that God exists!


Food For Thought:

Did you know that some people have so much faith in God that they will even die before they deny their faith? Imagine that. You must have a lot of courage to be able to do that. These people trust so much in God that they believe even if they die they will be with God in heaven in the end! Those who do die for their faith are called martyrs!

They are not afraid even of the end because they know that it is not the end if they continue to trust in God!


Create your own lists using the three above ideas to come up with reasons that you believe in God personally! Think about these questions to help you out...
- Where do you see God’s works in creation?
- What are things that you know are wrong? What about things that you know are right?
- What about your faith makes you happy?
- Come up with some of your own ideas that help you believe in God. Besides creation, knowledge of good and evil, and the desire for happiness, what helps you to have faith in God?
Calling All Saints: Blessed Virgin Mary

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary is when we celebrate the belief that Mary has gone into heaven with her whole body and soul. This means that like Jesus, her body has gone with her to heaven. We do not believe that our bodies go with us to heaven, but we do believe that Mary’s has. This has become what is called a dogma in the Church, a teaching that cannot be changed and is at the core of our Catholic faith because we believe it is something that God has revealed to us! We celebrate this day every year on August 15th. The Assumption of Mary is technically called an "Easter Feast" because she rose up just like Jesus did. Ask someone at home or your priest about what you can do to celebrate the Assumption of Mary!


Let's Pray:

"Father in heaven, all creation rightly gives you praise, for all life and all holiness come from you. In the plan of your wisdom she who bore the Christ in her womb was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven. May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness and join in her hymn of endless love and praise. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen."


"Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers."

Psalm 122:7

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