

### **“Faith and obedience”**

Last week, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Holy Body and Blood of Christ otherwise known as Corpus Christi. This week we look at the effect of faith and the obedience to God.

In our first reading, our parents acted on their own reason when they listened to the advice of the devil. God had given them everything that would give them boundless joy and happiness. God was the shield that protected them but it was up to them to choose His ways. It was up to them to obey His commandments. It was up to them to choose to accept His protection. They were surrounded by the beauty of the garden and the beauty of the skies. They had constant visit from God. However, their faith in Him turned sour in the face of temptation. They wanted to become gods.

Little children have faith in their parents. They believe and imagine that their parents can do anything. Because of their belief, they go about with carefree attitude and abandonment as they play with joy knowing that their parents would take care of them. If they are hurt, they go straight to their mother for her nurturing care. If a toy is broken, they go to their father whom they see as Mr. Fix all.

This is the type of faith God expects from us and the type of faith He expected from our first parents. God demand of us to have faith like little children who when at play, even thou they do not see their parents, yet, know that their parents are there to help them. Having faith in God is like a faith that knows that He has our back.

In our gospel reading we heard Jesus say: **“If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”** Jesus is telling us that even the devil and his demons have faith in each other and that is why he is a strong man. It is all about the old cliché, United we stand, divided we fall.

Jesus is telling us that, where there is unity of faith, the devil would not be able to destroy that union. He is saying, when we have faith that God is leading, us we will stand as tall as the tallest tree in the forest. If we have faith in God, we will be like children and have the assurance of what we hope for. The assurance that their parents have their backs.

Our faith in God should come out shinning as the brightest star at all moments of our lives, especially when we are in troubled waters. Our faith should come out shinning the brightest when a storm of confusion come our way and the waters of life become troubled and turbulent. Without faith, we would be blinded by darkness of the storm and we would wonder were God is.

If we are faithful to Him, and we lift up our heart to Him, we will hear Jesus say: **“Come to me all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”** If we are obedient to His call, Jesus will open up the flood gate of His mercy and our thirsts would be quenched. He would give us His living water to help us carry on and overcome our burdens.

Our faith is not only in Jesus but with all those who are in union with Him. The people we see around us at Mass might be going through the similar struggles and drawing from the same source of strength as we are. In the battle of life we never stand alone. Yes, if we keep our focus

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on Jesus, we would see life not as unending misery, but as a challenge, and in facing that challenge our focus would be our obedience to God who would fix all our problems.

Jesus the bread of life is always waiting for us in the Eucharist. As we receive Him, let us ask for more faith in Him.