

REFLECT



June 2021

Daring to live our faith

Faith is one of the extraordinary charisms which come from the manifestation of the Spirit of God. The passion and resurrection of Christ are at the heart of the Christian faith. To be a Christian is to believe in the absolutely gratuitous love (Eph 2:4,8) of a Father God who gave up his own Son for us (Rom 8:32) by giving him to die on the cross out of obedience (Heb 5:7-9). The confession of Jesus as Lord in the Christological hymn of the letter to the Philippians (Phil 2:6-11) refers to this mystery, insisting on its positive aspect: the exaltation and glorification of Jesus (Phil 2:9-1).

After the resurrection of Jesus, we observe the movements of the disciples, coming and goings, running to the tomb to see what happened. On the other side, we see Jesus after his resurrection meeting his disciples in their real situation of doubt, discouragement, confinement, resentment...The presence of Jesus, through his word and gestures, confirms the faith of his disciples, strengthens those who are weak and challenges those who doubt.

The Christian faith is the meeting of two faces: that of Christ and that of the disciple. The charism of faith here, is a question of faith to a profound degree whereby it is asked to believe without

seeing, or rather to believe in order to eventually see.

This is the case in Mt 14:23-31, with the episode of the storm



on the lake. Jesus, walking on the water, asks Peter to do as he did, to exercise the same charisma as he did when he said to him: "come". Peter obeyed and with the same faith as Jesus, he walked on the waters. But the moment he doubted, he lost that charism of faith and immediately began to sink in the water. Then Jesus said to him: "Man of little faith, why did you doubt? "The charism of faith is the main gateway to other extraordinary charisms.

The charism of faith moves the believers in the risen Lord, from fear to trust, from conflict to peace, from closure to openness, from withdrawal to mission.

To live the Christian faith will always consist of leaving one's personal and collective confinement, to recognize the crucified and risen one, to let oneself be recreated and renewed by the breath of the Spirit.

The question we are called to ask ourselves is whether and how we too allow

ourselves, to better live our faith and pass it on, how much do we allow ourselves to be challenged by the Gospel; whether it is truly the guide for our daily lives and for the choices we are called to make. It is demanding and requires to be lived with sincerity. It is not enough to read it (even if reading and studying it remain extremely important), it is not enough to meditate on it (and we do so with joy every day). Jesus asks us to put it into practice, to live his words, write Pope Francis to the Religious men and women.

At the end of the day, it is faith that widens our gaze. "If you believe, you will see the glory of God", Jesus said to Martha, John 11:40

Sr. Bernadette Mwavita, OSU

St. Joseph a Man of Faith



During this special year dedicated by Pope Francis to Saint Joseph for the global Catholic Church, and especially during the pandemic that is ravaging the world, we rely on the protection and

guidance offered by St. Joseph.

Did you know that the Pope's apostolic letter PATRIS CORDE Dec. 8, 2020, coincided with the 150th anniversary of Saint Joseph being named patron of the universal church? In this papal letter, the pope compares Joseph to the many

unheralded essential workers in society giving valuable service often in remote work. He speaks of vocation, personal responsibility, faith and trust.

The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, and to encourage us to imitate his virtues and his zeal. I encourage us all to read and meditate on the message from the Pope

Quotes from PATRIS CORDE:

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Cor 1:27). He is the "Father of orphans and protector of widows" (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the

stranger in our midst.[20] I like to think that it was from Saint Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father (cf. Lk 15:11-32).

Joseph found happiness not in mere self-sacrifice but in self-gift. In him, we never see frustration but only trust. His patient silence was the prelude to concrete expressions of trust. Our world today needs fathers. It has no use for tyrants who would domineer others as a means of compensating for their own needs. It rejects those who confuse authority with authoritarianism, service with servility, discussion with oppression, charity with a welfare mentality, power with destruction.

The prayer to St Joseph is being said throughout the congregation to bring healing to the suffering world.

Pandemic-New creation of humanity

Circular letter from Ranchi Province

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come, the old has gone, the new is here. " 2 Cor. 5: 17

Dear Sisters, it is more than a year that we are going through the painful experience, spiritually, emotionally, socially and economically due to corona virus. Especially the recent deaths have kept us spell bound. We got panicked. We have developed fear - what is next or who is next? Our faith and hope are challenged. We feel limited in every way.

There are many questions. We are uncertain of our future.

We have our own horrifying experiences of being corona patients, of infection in our communities and families. We lost our loved ones from our communities and families. Losing many lives. Queue of dead bodies at graveyards, cremation places, dead bodies floating in the river Ganges! What is God saying us through these events? What is God's invitation for us?

Today, I believe that God the Merciful Father is inviting us to realize how precious our life is. He is calling for the reparation of our life and to get ready for the next one. Certainly God is creating a new world with human beings of good will and right values. We believe in the communion of saints. We remain connected with our dear ones through our sweet memories, prayers, Holy Eucharist and sacrifices. Noah was saved because of his faith and good life. The people and animals of Nineveh were saved for their true repentance and conversion. Let us repent for our sins. Give more time for prayer and let us love and forgive one another. Let us allow the Spirit of God to lead us on the new road towards the fullness of life. May Mother Mary, the Queen of the Apostles, ever protect and intercede for us her children. May God bless us all.

Sr. Matilda Dungdung OSU

Laudato Si-A catalyst for change

Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature and justice for the poor, and he suggests building *networks of fraternity*. We as Ursulines have this *network of fraternity*.

Our hope is that each sister will be in tune with our *network of fraternity*, stay informed and make concrete changes in how she cares for our planet earth.

We envision all our actions forming a congregational chain of people working together with deep respect for earth our common home. Care of the earth is a God given responsibility for every person living on the planet and therefore care for the earth is profoundly pro life.

Celebrating Laudato Si' Week

Laudato Si Week 2021 was held May 16-25. It was the crowning event of the Special *Laudato Si'* Anniversary Year, and a celebration of the great progress the whole Church has made on its journey to ecological conversion. *Laudato Si* is a call to learn, take action and make a difference in the way we can, wherever we are. During the *Laudato Si* Week, there was a webinar sponsored by The **International Union of Superiors General** (UISG), each day stressing one aspect of the document. The sessions were invigorating and had top notch presenters. <https://laudatosiweek.org/>.

We are invited to sign up to show our support for *Laudato Si. Healthy Planet, Healthy People* petition.

www.thecatholicpetition.org

Like states, cities, universities, and corporations, we Catholic sisters see the importance of doing our part to positively contribute to our environment and community.



We thank Sr. Wineeta Bilung for sharing how she is furthering the call of Pope Francis to care for our common home.

Sr. Wineeta, a bee keeping expert, has started keeping bees in Hesag a locality in

Ranchi City. She has two hives set up in the garden. She reports that the bees are working hard producing honey and will be harvesting it in early summer to share with our community.

What tangible actions can you take to fulfil this responsibility in your area?

"Great and marvelous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty.
Just and true are your ways,
King of the nations."

Rev. 15 : 3
