

Deepening Our Faith in Troubled Times

Fr. Virginus Osuagwu SDS — 2024-10-03

Scripture and Catechism References

- **Matthew 24:6-8** — You will hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for these things must happen, but it will not yet be the end. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be famines and earthquakes from place to place. All these are the beginning of the labor pains.
- **Romans 8:22-23** — We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
- **Psalms 55:5-9** — My heart pounds within me; death's terrors fall upon me. Fear and trembling overwhelm me; shuddering sweeps over me. I say, "If only I had wings like a dove that I might fly away and find rest. Far away I would flee; I would stay in the desert. "I would soon find a shelter from the raging wind and storm."
- **CCC 152** — One cannot believe in Jesus Christ without sharing in his Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who reveals to men who Jesus is. For "no one can say "Jesus is Lord", except by the Holy Spirit", who "searches everything, even the depths of God. .. No one comprehends the thoughts of God, except the Spirit of God." Only God knows God completely: we believe in the Holy Spirit because he is God. The Church never ceases to proclaim her faith in one only God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- **Genesis 1:26-27** — Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
- **CCC 142** — By his Revelation, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company." The adequate response to this invitation is faith.
- **John 3:16** — For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.
- **CCC 150** — Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed. As personal adherence to God and assent to his truth, Christian faith differs from our faith in any human person. It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature.
- **Hebrews 11:1-3** — Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible. (Hebrews 11 in its entirety is on the last page)
- **1 Corinthians 1:18** — The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
- **Hebrews 11:6** — But without faith it is impossible to please him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.
- **Book Referenced** — Faith that Transforms Us: Reflections on the Creed by Cardinal Donald Wuerl — [LINK](#)
- **Matthew 5:16** — Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.
- **John 15:19** — If you belonged to the world, the world would love its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I have chosen you out of the world, the world hates you.
- **2 Corinthians 5:7** — For we walk by faith, not by sight.

- **Matthew 4:2-3** — Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. The tempter approached and said to Him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.”
- **John 16:33** — I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”
- **Sirach 2:1** — My child, when you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials.
- **John 16:33** — I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world.”
- **Job 22:29** — When men are brought low and you say, ‘Lift them up!’ then He will save the lowly.
- **Matthew 10:24** — No disciple is above his teacher, no slave above his master.
- **Hebrew 11:32-34** — What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword’s point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth.
- **Daniel 3:16-18** — Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, “There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up.”
- **1 Samuel 17:45** — But David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.
- **2 Chronicles 20:1-30** — [LINK](#)
- **Romans 5:1-5** — Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the holy Spirit that has been given to us.
- **Mark 12:30-31** — You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
- **1 Corinthians 13** — [LINK](#)
- **Romans 10:17** — Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.
- **John 6:63** — It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit & life.
- **Colossians 3:16** — Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- **Philippians 4:6** — Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.
- **James 2:17-18** — So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone may say, “You have faith and I have works.” Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.
- **Isaiah 41:10** — Do not fear: I am with you; do not be anxious: I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

- **Romans 8:28** — We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18** — Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
- **Hebrews 11**
 - **Faith of the Ancients.** Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.
 - By faith **Abel** offered to God a sacrifice greater than Cain's. Through this he was attested to be righteous, God bearing witness to his gifts, and through this, though dead, he still speaks. By faith **Enoch** was taken up so that he should not see death, and "he was found no more because God had taken him." Before he was taken up, he was attested to have pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please him, for anyone who approaches God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith **Noah**, warned about what was not yet seen, with reverence built an ark for the salvation of his household. Through this he condemned the world and inherited the righteousness that comes through faith. By faith **Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile—for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore. All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.
 - By faith **Abraham**, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol. By faith regarding things still to come **Isaac** blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith **Jacob**, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph and "bowed in worship, leaning on the top of his staff." By faith **Joseph**, near the end of his life, spoke of the Exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones. By faith **Moses** was hidden by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith **Moses**, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter; he chose to be ill-treated along with the people of God rather than enjoy the fleeting pleasure of sin. He considered the reproach of the Anointed greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the recompense. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's fury, for he persevered as if seeing the one who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them. By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted it they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after being encircled for seven days. By faith **Rahab** the harlot did not perish with the disobedient, for she had received the spies in peace. What more shall I say?
 - I have not time to tell of **Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets**, who by faith conquered kingdoms, did what was righteous, obtained the promises; they closed the mouths of lions, put out raging fires, escaped the devouring sword; out of weakness they were made powerful, became strong in battle, and turned back foreign invaders. Women received back their dead through resurrection. Some were tortured and would not accept deliverance, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others endured mockery, scourging, even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, sawed in two, put to death at sword's point; they went about in skins of sheep or goats, needy, afflicted, tormented. The world was not worthy of them. They wandered about in deserts and on mountains, in caves and in crevices in the earth. Yet all these, though approved because of their faith, did not receive what had been promised. God had foreseen something better for us, so that without us they should not be made perfect.