

LIVING FAITH

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Luke 12:35-40



‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In today’s Gospel, Jesus talks about the importance of being ready to meet Him. Some people think that this refers to the end of time, and this is true, but it is also true that Jesus calls us to be looking for Him wherever and whenever He comes to meet us each day. Jesus is present in our world. He is present in the people we meet. He is present in people we hear about, who are suffering. He is also present in those who are helping others. He is present in the Sacraments. We must have eyes that see Him and hearts that burn when He is near.

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- When and how have you met Jesus in your everyday life? How did you know that it was Him?
- Have you ever heard of somebody who reminded you a lot of Jesus?
- Has anyone ever encountered Jesus in or through you?

Family Reflection: Exerpts from Pope Francis' message to Families at the World Meeting of Families, Dublin Ireland, August 2018

It is good to be here! It is good to celebrate, for celebration makes us more human and more Christian. It also helps us to share the joy of knowing that Jesus loves us, he accompanies us on our journey of life, and each day he draws us closer to himself. In any family celebration, everyone's presence is felt: fathers, mothers, grandparents, grandchildren, uncles and aunts, cousins, those who cannot come and those who live too far away, everyone.

The Church is the family of God's children. A family in which we rejoice with those who are rejoicing, and weep with those who grieve or feel knocked down by life. A family in which we care for everyone, for God our Father has made all of us his children in Baptism.

You, dear families, are the vast majority of the People of God. What would the Church look like without you? A Church of statues, a Church of lone individuals... It was to help us recognize the beauty and importance of the family, with its lights and shadows, that the Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the joy of love was written, and that I wanted the theme of this World Meeting of Families to be "The Gospel of the Family, Joy for the World".

God wants every family to be a beacon of the joy of his love in our world. What does this mean? It means that we, who have encountered God's saving love, try, with or without words, to express it in little acts of kindness in our daily routine and in the most hidden moments of our day. And what is this called? It is called holiness. I like to speak of the saints "next door", all those ordinary people who reflect God's presence in the life and history of our world (cf. *Gaudete et Exsultate*, 6-7).



Jot down some ideas from Pope Francis' message that stand out for our family...



**THE CHURCH TEACHES
CHRISTUS VIVIT (CHRIST IS ALIVE!)
A POST-SYNODAL EXHORTATION FROM POPE FRANCIS
TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD
MARCH 25, 2019**

**CHAPTER 6
Young People with Roots**

Pope Francis writes, "I have sometimes seen young and beautiful trees, their branches reaching to the sky, pushing ever higher, and they seemed a song of hope. Later, following a storm, I would find them fallen and lifeless. They lacked deep roots. They spread their branches without being firmly planted, and so they fell as soon as nature unleashed her power. That is why it pains me to see young people sometimes being encouraged to build a future without roots, as if the world were just starting now. For "it is impossible for us to grow unless we have strong roots to support us and to keep us firmly grounded. It is easy to drift off, when there is nothing to clutch onto, to hold onto."



Pope Francis warns against:

- The false cult of youth, which dismisses age, experience and wisdom
- A spirituality without God
- a tendency to "homogenize" young people, blurring what is distinctive about their origins and backgrounds, and turning them into a new line of malleable goods.

Instead, Pope Francis proposes a profound respect among generations, for the young have much to offer the old, and the old have much to offer the young.



Pope Francis urges us to cherish and nourish our roots, saying, "Roots are not anchors chaining us to past times and preventing us from facing the present and creating something new. Instead, they are a fixed point from which we can grow and meet new challenges."



FEASTS THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15



We find homilies on the Assumption going back to the sixth century. The feast was celebrated under various names-Commemoration, Dormition, Passing, Assumption-from at least the fifth or sixth century. By the 13th century there was universal agreement.

Scripture does not give an account of Mary's Assumption into heaven. Revelation 12 speaks of a woman who is caught up in the battle between good and evil. Many see this woman as Mary, who best embodies the people of both Old and New Testaments, her Assumption can be seen as an exemplification of the woman's victory.

Since Mary is closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe in Mary's share in his glorification. So close was she to Jesus on earth, she must be with him body and soul in heaven.

On November 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the Assumption of Mary to be a dogma of faith: "We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma that the immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory." The pope proclaimed this dogma only after a broad consultation of bishops, theologians and laity. What the pope solemnly declared was already a common belief in the Catholic Church.

Hail! Holy Queen

Hail! Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.

To you do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.

Turn then, O most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit
of your womb, Jesus.

O clement! O loving! O sweet Virgin Mary!

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Watch a short video reflection [here](#).