

LIVING FAITH

19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
AUGUST 9, 2020



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY—Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray.

When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.

And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake.

But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!'

And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.'

He said, 'Come.'

So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.

But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!'

Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him,

'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Throughout this Covid-19 pandemic, we have often heard people say things like, "We're all in the same boat." There's a way that this is true, if we think of all of humanity as one, facing this pandemic together. There's also a way that we could say that we are all facing the same storm, but our boats may be very different, depending on the different situations of our lives- family, friends, employment, health, whether we are in school or not, etc.

The Gospel for today offers hope and consolation. The disciples, out on the lake, face a terrible storm, and they are battered by fierce winds and high waves that threaten to swamp the boat. Did you notice that Jesus came to them without being asked or invited? So strong was his love and concern that he came toward them, walking on the water. What a wonderful image of Jesus—he is One who knows our cares and concerns, and loves us so much that he accompanies us, even- perhaps especially- in our most difficult moments and our trials. Jesus does the same thing for us. No matter what the storm, if we look, he is there beside us, walking with us, accompanying us.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- What is your response to this story of the presence of Jesus in the storm at sea?
- Have you ever witnessed a storm with high winds, rain and waves? How did you feel?
- Have you ever felt certain that Jesus was walking with you? How did you know this?
- Have you ever been the presence of Jesus for someone else who was going through a storm?
- Has anyone else ever been the presence of Jesus for you as you walked through a storm?

THE CHURCH TEACHES

THE DIRECTORY FOR CATECHESIS (2020)

PUBLISHED BY THE PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

SECTION 1

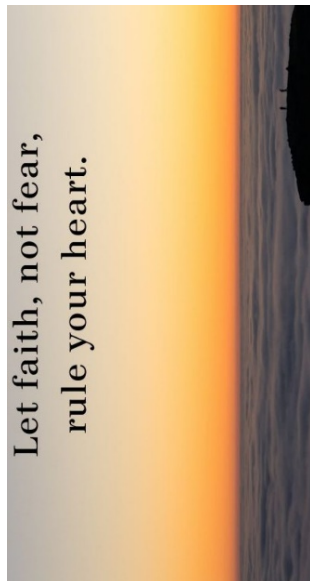
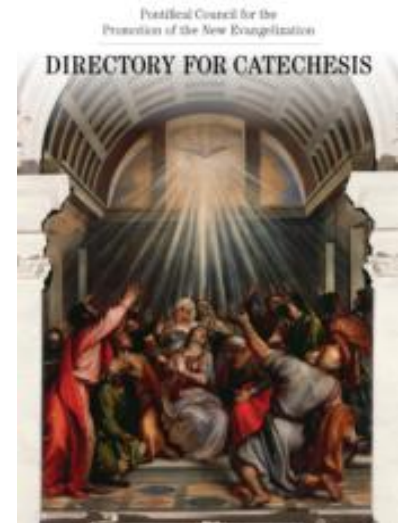
WHAT IS FAITH?

Section 1 of the new *Directory for Catechesis* begins with the question: “What is Faith?” Let’s look at the way that the *Directory for Catechesis* deals with this question. **But first... what about you? How would you answer the question, “What is Faith?”**

The *Directory for Catechesis* answers this question in several ways. Let’s explore them!

Christian faith is, first of all, the welcoming of God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ, sincere adherence to his person, and the free decision to follow him. This yes to Jesus Christ contains two dimensions:

- Trustful abandonment to God (fides qua) and
- Loving assent to all the he has revealed to us (fides quae). (paragraph 18)



In paragraph 19, the *Directory for Catechesis* tells us that faith is both a free gift of God, and our free response to that wonderful gift. It says:

Faith is:

- a gift from God and
- A supernatural virtue that can be born within us as
- the fruit of grace and
- as a free response to the Holy Spirit..

Faith as the personal welcoming of God’s gift, is not irrational or blind....Faith and reason, in fact, are complementary...

How have you welcomed God’s gift of faith in your life? ... in the life of your family?

Paragraph 21 of the new *Directory for Catechesis* introduces us to a very important concept. It tells us that faith is personal, but also has a communal dimension. In our society, very much influenced by individualism, this might be very challenging to hear:

- Faith is certainly a personal act and, nevertheless, it is not an individual and private choice: it has a relational and communal character... every believer joins the community of disciples and... is part of (the Church’s) mission.

Do you think of faith as personal and private? ... or as something that takes shape in the context of the Christian community?



FEASTS THIS WEEK

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15



Stained glass window of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Marian Chapel at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, St. John's, by Gerard Earley, 1954. Photo by Robert and Lynn Young, 2018.

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.

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.

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.

Jesus Walks on the Water

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. Matthew 14:25 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
H	V	S	L	F	P	X	Z	A	I	N	W	C	R	D	U	Q	J	M	Y	O	K	G	T	E	B

1. 26-21-9-24 _____
2. 12-10-11-15 _____
3. 12-9-24-25-14 _____
4. 5-9-10-24-1 _____
5. 9-5-14-9-10-15 _____
6. 3-10-11-22 _____
7. 12-9-2-25-3 _____
8. 5-25-9-14 _____
9. 12-9-4-22-10-11-23 _____
10. 4-9-22-25 _____

BOAT	WIND	SINK	WATER	FAITH
LAKE	WALKING	FEAR	AFRAID	WAVES