



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

October 6, 2019

Kindling the Faith

By Mary Katharine Deeley

I have a little jar of mustard seeds on the bookcase in my office. They were given to me as a going-away present by a priest I knew, a little reminder to keep the faith. Every time I hear the Gospel about the mustard seed, I am reminded of him. He was a mentor and friend, one of the many people who have inspired my faith from young adulthood until now. He is also the example of what I hope to be for the students I teach. The faith that we explore is a rich inheritance, indeed, and I can only hope to influence my students as much as he influenced me.

Being a faith-filled person isn't for cowards. As Paul tells Timothy, God gave us gifts of power and love to be able to stand against evil and to love those who seem unlovable. God called us to a holy life, which means that we occasionally have to turn away from what the world has to offer and embrace a different way of living. Christ's disciples are called to help make the world holy through word and example, by inviting others to know Christ and acting in such a way that knowing Christ seems the only possible response. Finally, God gave us the Holy Spirit, who makes it possible for us to live lives that are worthy of the calling to which we have been called.

"Stir into flame the gift of God," Paul exhorts (2 Timothy 1:6). Fire is the perfect metaphor. It lights our way and gives us warmth. It also purifies us for the work ahead. Who inspired you in your faith? How will you become a better disciple today because of them? +

Sunday Readings

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

How long, O LORD, must I cry for help and you do not listen?

2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord...but bear your share of hardship for the gospel.

Luke 17:5-10

[Jesus said,] "Is [the master] grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you."

*Christ's disciples
are called to help make
the world holy through
word and example.*

A Word from Pope Francis

Perhaps you will be challenged by [our immigrants'] diversity. But know that they also possess resources meant to be shared. So do not be afraid to welcome them. Offer them the warmth of the love of Christ....I am certain that, as so often in the past, these people will enrich America and its Church.

—Meeting with
United States
bishops,
September
23, 2015



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Have you thanked those who have mentored you in your faith?
- Are you ever embarrassed to express your Christian beliefs? Why?