



Fr Ralph Homily Sunday 8.12.07 19th Sunday of Year Cycle C

2nd Reading. Hebrews Ch 11 :1

“Faith is the basis of the things we hope for and the proof
Of the things that are not seen.”

Cardinal John Henry Newman has this to say about faith:

‘What is meant by faith? It is to feel in good earnest that we are creatures of God; it is a practical perception of the unseen world; it is to understand that this world is not enough for our happiness, to look beyond it on towards God, to realize His presence, to wait upon Him, to endeavor to learn and to do His will, and to seek our good from Him.’

How do *we* get the gift? For ourselves and our loved ones— our children, our grandchildren, our students?

Teaching prayer is the main way. If we want to pray, we *want* to be in union with Christ. And he told us: “Ask the Father anything in my name and He will give it you.” God wants us to have faith if *we* want it. So we need to teach ourselves and our loved ones to pray for it.

I was in England and France with Fr Abbot this summer. Faith has grown cold for many there. Many Catholics have given up on mass. —they no longer see it as an invitation to be fed with God’s own life, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Why?

They no longer want Jesus’ way. What is Jesus’ way? A way of humility,
of purity,
of self-sacrifice,
of forgiveness.
The way of grace.

The culture encourages casual sex

- getting into the habit of not perceiving and respecting the dignity of each person;
- not living the message that sexual intercourse is to be kept for marriage;
- failing to teach their children and grandchildren and students that casual sex is very serious. As scripture tells us ‘fornicators’, those who indulge in casual sex outside marriage will not enter the kingdom of heaven unless they repent.

and repentance takes grace,

- and grace, like faith, is a gift,
- and we need to pray for it,
- and we need to want it.



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY



On August 4th in Tehran the government arrested between 200 and 230 people attending a rock concert.

We deplore the arrests
but do we also deplore a culture that is striving to keep its people from sexual immorality,
from wild parties with alcohol abuse, drugs, casual sex, teenage pregnancies,
multiple abortions, infidelities, breaking and broken marriages?

One of *our* ways of building bridges towards Islam is by leading and teaching others to lead holy, faith-filled, Christian lives.

Being a disciple of Jesus and teaching our loved ones— our children, our grandchildren and students—
by word and example
how to live such a life.

This would be one of the best ways that each of us, here individually and as part of a culture, could help the building of peace.

Our cultures much vaunted freedoms need examination.

We are not permitted to purvey goods that damage physical health — a dangerous new drug will be off the shelves in weeks if it is shown that it is damaging people's hearts.

What about all the porn that is flung at us casually whether via e-mail or the media on a daily basis?

Does not this corrode our life with God?

Jesus says in St John Chapter 12:

“If someone listens to my words and does not keep them
it is not I who will judge him,

for I have not come to judge the world but to save the world.

The one who rejects me and does not receive my words will have his judge.

The words I have spoken will judge him on the last day.

For I have not spoken from myself.

The Father who sent me himself commanded me to say what I said.

And I know that his command is eternal life.

So I say what the Father told me to say.”. John 12:47-50