



October 2, 2022

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Oct 5, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Oct 23, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Nov 16, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Readings

Hb 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4
 Ps 95: 1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)
 2 Tm 1: 6-8, 13-14
 Lk 17: 5-10

Parish Donations

New feature: Scan the QR code to make a donation.

September 25	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$876.00	\$348.00
St. Catherine	\$250.00	\$160.00
St. Colman	\$105.00	\$85.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,824.00

Pastor's Desk

Indeed, life's journey offers us endless choices. The problem is, as some say, "by the time you know your way around, you don't feel like going." Perhaps that is somewhat the way author John Stuart Mill felt at one point in his life. In his autobiography, *Mill says that his father had recognized that he was a very gifted child and proceeded to cram his head with all sorts of knowledge.* However, since he had no religious faith of his own, the father would not allow anything religious to become part of his son's education.

Looking back on his education with a deep sense of loss, John Stuart Mill said that his mind was full with information, but his soul was starved. He said, **"I was left at the commencement of my voyage with a well-equipped ship -- but no sail."**

There is little doubt that many can identify with John Stuart Mill's complaint -- a well-equipped ship but no

sail. We need something to push up the value of our hopes and dreams. We need something to push us up and over the waves of emptiness that pound our bored and weary souls. We need something to give us new life. *We need something to get us sailing again toward genuine life goals. In the words of Louise Fletcher:*

"I wish there were some wonderful place called the Land of Beginning Again, where all our mistakes and heartaches could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door and never be put on again."

Our Christian faith is centered in Jesus Christ, who is Truth Itself and the Word of God made flesh. There is no escape from the reality that the riddle of life cannot be solved from within us. The person who insists, "I'll do it my way," is "running scared," afraid to face the reality of their human limitations; afraid to acknowledge dependence on a higher order of Being for the solution to life's riddle.

If we can say that professing the Faith is courageous, we must immediately add that living the Faith is heroic. Following Jesus is a risky, demanding way of life. So we are tempted to settle into a standard of life that is less risky and less demanding. It is easier to conform than to change. And if we allow our conformity to evolve into a lifestyle, we become obsessively fearful of change. We are hooked! Face the Truth, and we dare not! Act in Truth, we cannot!

The Scottish New Testament Scholar, William Barclay, was fond of telling this story about his grandchild, Jill:

"One Sunday in our house, we sat listening to a television talk. We were all there, including the grandchildren, Jill and Karen. The speaker was talking about prayer. Jill did not seem to be paying much attention. She was, in fact, in the process of getting a series of rebukes for distracting the attention of those who wanted to listen. She wandered about in the background, climbing up the back of the couch

and doing all sorts of forbidden things. After all, when you are not yet seven, television talks on prayer haven't an awful lot to say to you. The speaker had just said there are certain things to remember in prayer. 'God,' he said, 'knows far better than we do what is for our good. God is far wiser than we.' And from the back of the sofa came Jill's voice: *'And he's bigger, too!' Jill had been listening, after all!*"

We can have faith in God because He is bigger than we are. We can have faith in God because He is wiser than we are. But the faith that moves mountains is our faith in God because He is Love. God does not impose His Will on us even though He's bigger than us. God does not impersonally push us around like chess pieces even though He is wiser than us. God loves us, which means that He desires not only our good but our happiness.

When we realize that there is love at the heart of all things, we can say, not because we must, but freely in the spirit of joy: "Thy Will be done." And we will rejoice in the faith that can uproot sycamore trees and even move mountains.

When you are looking for ideas for how to become the loving persons God intended us to be, just ask, **"Lord, increase our faith! Lord, increase our capacity for love!"**

Peace and blessings!
 Fr. Luis

Announcements

Sign up to host Hospitality

We are inviting families to sign up for Hospitality. To prepare and pick up the donuts and coffee at Safeway for our fellowship after the 9:30 am mass. The items are already paid for. It gives family a chance to participate and know our community and it gives us chance to get to know your family.

Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory at 707-869-2107 to confirm with him, so that he knows to arrive early on the weekend, or stay late on Friday. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory.

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at stelizabeth.churchtrac.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

Discussion Questions

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

1. Can you relate to this reading from the Book of Habakkuk? The writer could no longer endure violence, abuse and oppression in the world. What about you? Where do the challenges of discipleship arise for you?

2. Habakkuk speaks of misery and violence. What helps you survive misery in your life? In a tough situation can faith sustain you? Do you need to exercise your faith in lesser matters in order to be ready?

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

1. What did Paul say God gave us instead of the "spirit of cowardice?" How can we "stir into flames" the power of love and self-control? Can love overcome cowardice and be a weapon for Christians?

2. Discuss authoritarianism, empathy and openness. Which are signs of strength? And which of weakness? What about love or cowardice?

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

1. Is quantity an issue when it comes to faith? Would an infinitely small amount of faith (a mustard seed's worth) fulfill what Jesus promised to the apostles?

2. Do you know people, as Pope Francis suggests below, who, with "incredibly strong faith," have moved mountains? Or as this Gospel asserts, have uprooted mulberry trees? Who are they? What have they accomplished? Can your faith help you do the kinds of things they did? Can it help you overcome obstacles?

The mustard seed is very small, but Jesus says that it is enough to have a faith like this, small, but true, sincere to do things that are humanly impossible, unthinkable. And it is true! We all know people who are simple, humble, but with an incredibly strong faith, who truly move mountains!

Pope Francis: Angelus Message
 October 7, 2013

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

* of February, May, August and November

