



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
August 21, 2022

Just Come In the Side Door

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

A fragment from a church ceiling fresco crumbled and fell to the ground. It was eventually added to the Vatican collection. A piece of rubble that is now a priceless object of art depicts an apostle as he gazes upwards towards Christ's divine glory.

We too are striving to attain that heavenly vision, and in today's Gospel, Jesus advises us on how to realize it. We should strive to enter the smaller gate, the narrow door. It's not the grand main entrance that everyone sees and knows about. The narrow door is a less-traveled

side entrance that only those who are close to the owner and his family know. Christ invites us to be so familiar with him that we know the side door.

Many pass the Master's house, know where it is, but have lost the practice of stopping inside. They know about God, even pray occasionally, and don't hurt anyone. No doubt not hurting others is admirable, but there is so much more for someone baptized into Christ. We're not called to merely avoid hurting others, but to have a deep, transforming experience of healing love that we then share with others.

Jesus' warning seems to be that when there is a mad rush to enter the front gate, those well-intentioned but out-of-practice souls who "don't know him" might find themselves struggling to squeeze in.

Jesus and the Church don't want that to happen to anyone. He invites us to get familiar, stop in often. He might say, "When you get here, just come in the side door!"

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A Word from Pope Francis

[Faith] means that you show the revelation, so that the Holy Spirit might work in people through witness.... If I say that I am a Christian, but I live like a pagan, that doesn't work, that doesn't convince anyone. If I say that I am a Christian, and I live like a Christian, this attracts.

Homily, Rome, April 25, 2020



Sunday Readings

Isaiah 66:18-21

[Thus says the Lord,] "I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; they shall come and see my glory."

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reprov'd by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Luke 13:22-30

[Jesus said,] "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do I prioritize getting to know our Lord in prayer?
- Do I live the words I hear and speak at Mass?

Walk the Talk

By Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR

Every week, Catholics recite a common creed that binds us in one faith. I've been thinking about personal creeds. What creed do I live? What creed do others infer from my actions, words, and deeds? What if God will judge us not on what we recite at weekly Mass, but on what we do the rest of the week? What if we will be convicted by our convictions?



- If I believe sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God, and yet I don't read and study the Bible, then I refuse to hear God.
- If I believe in plentiful redemption, and yet I fail to forgive myself, then I deny that God is all-loving.
- If I believe God created the heavens and the earth, and yet I fail to care for the environment, then I am abusing the offspring of God.
- If I believe God is the creator of all life, and yet I believe an unborn child is a choice, then I make my God an inconvenience.
- If I believe humankind was created in God's image, and yet act as if any race or gender is superior to another, then I proclaim God to be fickle and imperfect.
- If I believe in the primacy of conscience, and yet I fail to learn the teachings of the Church, then I'm a rudderless ship adrift in a sea of troubles.
- If I believe Christ will judge the living and the dead, and yet I spend my days judging the faults of others, then I have surely usurped the throne of my King.
- If I believe the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, and yet I spend all my days stifling the Spirit, then I have muzzled my God.
- If I believe in the Real Presence, and yet I am not transformed by holy Communion, then I deny Christ's admittance to the world.
- If I believe we are all sisters and brothers in Christ, and yet I fail to share my time, talent, and treasure, then I surely deny that Christ is my brother.

At Mass we profess the faith we believe. What faith are we professing by our actions?

PRAYER

Faithful God, grant me the grace to believe the truth, to speak what I believe, and to live what I speak. I pray in in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 22–27

Monday, The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
2 Thes 1:1–5, 11–12 / Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday, Weekday:
2 Thes 2:1–3a, 14–17 / Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday, St. Bartholomew:
Rev 21:9b–14 / Jn 1:45–51

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Cor 1:1–9 / Mt 24:42–51

Friday, Weekday:
1 Cor 1:17–25 / Mt 25:1–13

Saturday, St. Monica:
1 Cor 1:26–31 / Mt 25:14–30

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