

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Grace and Peace!



Some of us were brought up as Catholics, through the faith and good examples of our parents, while others had the faith planted in them through their spouse, friends or mentors. This weekend, the liturgy takes us into the fields to experience how our faith is planted, how it grows and how it enables us to believe something to be true as revealed by God. Amidst these invisible mysteries, there is great reassurance!

In our first reading, political intrigue and idolatry were widespread in Judah and Jerusalem at the time of the Prophet Habakkuk. When Habakkuk cries out to the Lord in despair, God assures the prophet to stay patient with a steadfast expectation in God, reinforcing how the just will live righteous lives in the face of suffering and delay. In the second reading, St.

Paul encourages the timid young Timothy to persevere in the faith, and in fact, to closely guard the words that have come to Timothy from him and through the help of the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel reading from Luke 17, once again we observe Jesus using parables, this time to teach his apostles about increasing their faith, reminding them about the *quality* of their faith. Using a master-servant parable, Jesus teaches them that for faith to be effective, it must be linked with trust, obedience, and total commitment. How remarkable, that even in small quantities, our faith allows God to work miracles in our lives!

As Christians, we all need to remain grateful to God for the faith he has given to us in his Son, Jesus Christ. Perchance we may take the time to ask ourselves to what extent have we provided good examples to our children and grandchildren: a multi-generational inheritance of the amazing gift from God. The Holy Eucharist has been an extraordinary help to my own faith as with each opportunity to receive Our Lord in the Eucharist, I experience a steady and mysterious building up of the faith. This weekend we begin to receive the Holy Eucharist again under both species.

As we receive this ongoing fortification at every Mass, we find we are even more prepared to accept the adversities and trials of life, despite our human vulnerability. It may be too easy to forget God's providence when our earthly affairs are going well, only remembering to pray when a crisis occurs. In His Infinite Goodness, He allows us to especially discern the needs of others, which can outshine a series of sermons given by me every Sunday. By using the devout offerings Christ has given us through the Holy Mass, in the Sacraments and in daily works of charity, we can always remain fervent for His gift of Faith, becoming messengers of Divine Love.

“Jesus takes over our weaknesses and brokenness when we receive Him with love and in a state of grace. Let us never question the incredible power at our disposal in this Holy Sacrament.”

Saint Faustina

A Joyous Sunday!