



St. Anne
CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY

October 3, 2010

The Twenty-seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

The apostles said to the Lord. "Increase our faith," and he answered: "if you had the faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this sycamore, 'be uprooted and transplanted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Luke 17:5

Dear Friends;

Poet, Laverne W. Hall tells a story of faith. That Southern summer had been hot and dry. The lack of rain had left all the crops wilting. The people of the town were getting worried and looked for any sign of relief. The days and weeks passed and still no rain came.

The ministers of the local churches decided to hold a special service to pray for rain. They invited everyone to bring an object of faith for inspiration. That Saturday at the appointed hour everyone in town showed up. They filled the town square with hopeful hearts. The ministers were touched to see everyone clutching prayer books, bibles, crosses or rosaries.

Just as the hour of prayer was concluding, as if God was on cue it began to gently rain. Cheers rang out and people held their items of devotion up in praise and thanks. Then from the middle of the crowd came a faith symbol that overshadowed all the others—a child had brought an umbrella!

The scripture readings for today invite us to a faith that expects a response. Habakkuk is told by God in answer to his prayer for justice, "If it delays wait for it, it will surely come; it will not be late." Hb. 2:3 God is faithful to Godself and will bring about justice and Shalom.

Jesus seems to be telling us in today's parable from Luke that we need to act on our faith. We need to behave as if what we profess is come to pass—like the child who brings an umbrella to a prayer-service for rain.

Jesus invites us to be servants of the Kingdom—ambassadors of its radical love. We do this by enacting its virtues now! We do not passively await the transformation of the world in some far off future while we excuse ourselves from participating in the world's current injustices.

To be a servant of the kingdom means that we must work at all the difficult issues in our society—immigration, prison reform, education, health care, housing for the poor, the ecology, religious freedom for Muslims, etc.

The parable of Jesus leaves us no room for a sense of entitlement. We must do what is required of us and in the end say, "We are only God's servants deserving no credit, we have done no more than what has been asked."

In the parable of the servant Jesus is spelling out what he demands of his followers—loyalty or faith that God will accomplish a just world built on God's compassionate, forgiving love. Let us now live it.

Peace,

Fr Ron