



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

October 5, 2025

Have Faith

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

That is so easy to say and so hard to do. This might be because we misunderstand what faith is and what it might do. Today's readings offer us three glimpses into what the Bible means by faith.

The reading from Habakkuk and the gospel passage seem to contradict each other. The gospel suggests that one can do wondrous things if one's faith is strong enough. Many people understand this literally and then are confused and terribly disappointed when things do not turn out as they wanted. Habakkuk is in a dire situation. He turned to God, but it seems to no avail: "You do not intervene"

(Habakkuk 1:2). What response did he get? "Don't give up. Don't lose faith."

Paul's letter was written to Timothy, one of Paul's own converts to faith in the risen Lord. Paul encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in that faith. It's clear that faith is not solely a set of beliefs and doctrines; it is a way of life—one that follows and is inspired by the example Jesus' life provides. It is also clear that living such a life might be dangerous, as evidenced by Paul's own imprisonment.

Reading the gospel passage again after considering these reflections, one might understand the power of faith in a new way. Perhaps the mulberry tree stands for the struggles that had to be endured by Habakkuk, the danger that Timothy faced in a hostile world, and the hurdles that challenge our own faith. It assures us that if we don't lose faith, we also can do wondrous things. †



Faith is not solely a set of beliefs and doctrines; it is a way of life—one that follows and is inspired by the example of Jesus.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

There is so little dialogue around us; shouting often replaces it, not infrequently in the form of fake news and irrational arguments proposed by a few loud voices. Deeper reflection and study are essential, as well as a commitment to encounter and listen to the poor.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



Sunday Readings

Habakkuk 1:2–3; 2:2–4

The just one who is righteous because of faith shall live.

2 Timothy 1:6–8, 13–14

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control.

Luke 17:5–10

[Jesus said,] "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ONE QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

- Does how I live reflect what I say I believe?
- What is one thing I can change to better live my faith?



Meet Pope Leo XIV

Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP

There are people whose presence doesn't impose, but transforms. These people don't seek the spotlight, yet they "illuminate," as St. Thomas Aquinas once said. They don't raise their voices, yet they leave a lasting impression. They walk quietly behind the scenes, without a desire for prominence, yet they are often the soul behind key decisions—the whisper that orients, the listener who sustains.

Such has been the path of Robert Francis Prevost for decades: Augustinian friar, missionary in distant lands, bishop among the poor, prefect entrusted with discerning and appointing pastors throughout the world, and now Successor of Peter under the name Leo XIV. Yet, above all, he has been a seeker: a tireless seeker of truth in the spirit of St. Augustine, his spiritual teacher. Like St. Augustine, bishop of Hippo, Prevost has understood the Christian life as an interior journey of constant searching—sustained by faith and nourished by prayer, study, and community.

His vocation was not born of strategy or calculation, but of that restlessness of heart to which Augustine gave immortal expression: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." For St. Augustine and for Prevost, truth is not an abstract concept or intellectual construction, but a living person: Jesus Christ.

Leo XIV's life has not been an ecclesiastical climb to the top, but a pastoral path marked by service, empathy, and quiet fidelity. He never sought to stand out, yet he was chosen for one of the most demanding roles on earth. And he accepted it with the simplicity of someone who did not pursue the position, but who responds to a call. For him, as for many before him, service is not ambition, but—in the way of Jesus—a form of love. †

He has been a seeker: a tireless seeker of truth in this world.

From *Pope Leo XIV: Restless Heart, Faithful Shepherd* by Sr. Gemma Morató Sendra, OP, Liguori Publications (829000).

To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Five Ways to Share Your Faith" by John Roberto

Nurturing the growth of faith at home occurs through religious activities connected with daily family routines: eating together; praying in the morning, in the evening, and at mealtimes; having family conversations; displaying sacred objects and religious images, especially a Bible, crucifix, or image of Jesus; celebrating holy days, holidays, and Church seasons; providing moral guidance; engaging in family devotions; reading the Bible; and serving the needy. When we invite God into our family activities, we grow in faith, recognize God's presence and love in our lives, and experience home life as holy. The household becomes a living "laboratory" for cultivating and nurturing the growing faith of young disciples. In generations past, religious activities were more naturally part of family life—passed on from generation to generation and supported by ethnic traditions. Today, a Catholic family must intentionally choose to plant and nurture faith practices.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Gracious God, enlighten our minds and open our hearts that we may humbly receive the message of your truth. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

October 6–11

Monday, Weekday:

Jon 1:1–2:2, 11 / Lk 10:25–37

Tuesday, Our Lady of the Rosary:

Jon 3:1–10 / Lk 10:38–42

Wednesday, Weekday:

Jon 4:1–11 / Lk 11:1–4

Thursday, Weekday:


Mal 3:13–20b / Lk 11:5–13

Friday, Weekday:

Jl 1:13–15; 2:1–2 / Lk 11:15–26

Saturday, Weekday:

Jl 4:12–21 / Lk 11:27–28

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