

Impact

Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

FOLLOW JESUS

Let us begin with a bold question. Does faith make a difference in your life? Is your relationship with Jesus a real, living reality, or do you go through the motions by occasionally coming to Mass or mumbling a prayer before meals, and leave all thoughts of faith behind the rest of the time?

Faith in Jesus Christ is to be the deriving force in our lives. Being a Christian should shape our daily decisions, attitudes, and actions. Yet, for many, something else is needed first – a “flash of insight” or a real encounter with Jesus. **Whether your faith is deep or needs to be renewed, take a leap of faith and open your heart and mind to Jesus Christ.** With the certainty that Jesus desires a meaningful relationship with us, we can be ready to follow him.

LIVE IN MISSION

Following Jesus is not only about an interior relationship with the Lord. Christ calls us into mission — to share God’s love, mercy, forgiveness, compassion, and life with others.

What is the impact of faith in your life? Do you show love to family members and friends, even when you would rather focus on yourself? Do you serve others through a parish

ministry or local outreach organization? Do you give as a way of thanking God for all you have been given? Jesus is the love of God, poured out freely for all who will receive it. This is the Good News, the Gospel, of the Lord. Jesus gave completely of himself, holding nothing back. **We cannot be passive recipients of this great gift!** Disciples who are good stewards embody and express the one mission of Christ: to do God’s will, to proclaim the Good News of salvation, to

heal the afflicted, to care for one’s sisters and brothers, to give life – life to the full – as Jesus did. (SDR, 14)



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When we live our faith “out loud,” sharing our gifts and caring for others, we have the opportunity to cause a positive effect, to allow God’s love to be known and experienced through us.

We are sometimes hesitant to recognize the impact of our words and actions on others. Yet we know in our hearts that what we do makes a difference, for ill or for the better. As

disciples, we can make a difference, in the lives of individual people and in the life of the Church, our city, and world. What impact will your stewardship make in the life of another? How will you cause an effect for the good of others, as you share in Christ’s mission to bring life, light, mercy, and peace through your words, actions, service, and ministry?

Impact
this
month

1. Follow Jesus.

Open your heart and mind in prayer. Thank God for your blessings. Ask the Lord to be with you, and to guide you toward him.

2. Live in Mission.

Make a commitment to share your time and attention, talents and gifts, money and resources in order to share God’s love with others.

3. Make a Difference.

Be attentive to the impact you may have through your words and actions. Go out of your way to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

SEE GRACE IN YOUR MIDST

God is the origin of all that is good.

In our time, in which people place absolute value in scientific proof, faith, religion, and an appreciation of mystery are sometimes seen as incompatible with reason. Yet, as St. John Paul II noted, "faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth." (Fides et Ratio, introduction)

In faith, we ponder the meaning of life and our place in the world, as children of God, who is the origin of the universe. Through reason, we strive to understand the complexities of the universe and all that it holds. As people of faith, we see grace in our midst in the beauty that surrounds us – life, relationships, and all of creation. As we

ponder this, we grow in wonder and gratitude, recognizing that all comes from and belongs to God.

GIVE IN RETURN

How do we say "thank you" to God?

All we are, have, and will be has been given to us in trust by our good and gracious God. Our way of thanking God for these abundant blessings is to give, not out of obligation, but because deep within ourselves, we know that this is who we are called to be.

It is this way of life which Jesus shows us, and which we are to live as disciples. "Life shines brightly not because we are rich, beautiful or powerful. Instead, it



shines when we discover within ourselves the truth that we are called by God, have a vocation, have a mission, that our lives serve something greater than ourselves. Every single creature has a role to play." (Pope Leo, 11/1/2025)

In the lives of disciples, however, something else must come before the practice of stewardship. They need a flash of insight – a certain way of *seeing* – by which they view the world and their relationship to it in a fresh, new light. – SDR, p. 39



LOVE GOD, LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

When asked what commandment is the greatest, Jesus replied, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your

heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (MT 22:34-40)

Love God, love our neighbor. It sounds so simple. And yet, we know that it is anything but simple. Loving God requires us to place our trust in One who cannot be seen and yet knows us better than we know ourselves. Loving God calls us to order our lives in relationship to God and God's ways, the way of self-giving love. When our heart, soul, and mind are

centered on God, we will see ourselves as uniquely created, God's very own.

Loving our neighbor is the way in which we show our love for God. When we love God with our whole being, we understand that our neighbor is a child of God, one who is God's prized possession, just as each of us is. The truth is that every person is created out of love, for love. As Christ himself taught us, whatever we do for the least among us, we do for him. Loving our neighbor is, after all, our greatest act of faith, of discipleship, and of stewardship.