

***Twenty-Ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time***  
***October 16, 2022***  
***Year of Saint Joseph***

*“But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” (Luke 18:8)*

These past two weekends have prepared us for reflecting upon Jesus' question which is posed in the eighteenth chapter of Saint Luke's Gospel. In verse eight, which we heard today, Jesus asks an unanswered question “ –When He returns again, will He find faith upon the earth?” We could very easily attest that somewhere, we believe, someone will still be holding fast to the Truth which we profess was handed down from Jesus. We could go a step further and state that we believe Jesus will find faith alive and well in His Catholic Church upon His return. We boldly make this claim through quoting His own words revealed in Sacred Scripture. He Himself states; He will be present until the end of the age: “*Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world.*” (Matthew 28:20). I believe we can confidently say all of these things stated above.

Yet, why does this question require us to continue our reflection? It is because, although we can provide a general answer, when it comes to us as individuals, our confidence is shaken. If Jesus were to return today and the answer to His question is dependent upon you or I and the way we have professed and lived our One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic faith, what would the answer be? If it all depended upon you or I, would He find faith upon the earth?

Before we throw in the towel or raise the white flag, let us take stock in what we have been learning over these past few years. We have reminded ourselves, through these Sunday reflections, that our ultimate destiny is union with God for all eternity in heaven. We have also considered that if we are to remain true to this goal, we will need to continually return to the truths taught by the Catholic Church. For it is through these truths, inspired by the Holy Spirit, God wants to shield us from the attachments of this passing world.

My dear family, this is the way I want you to consider answering this question. Faith is both a belief in those things revealed and a continued exploration for clarity of those things revealed. It is knowing Christ in all that is revealed and yet continuing to seek His face daily to know Him better. Faith is a magnificent, structurally solid building left to us by the hard work, the blood and sweat of others, which is never complete for it lacks our contribution, our hard work, our effort. I pray when Jesus returns again, He would find us doing the same thing we have been doing these past few years — lovingly embracing the Catholic faith of our ancestors, and continually striving, through this Catholic faith, to come to a deeper knowledge of Him who has loved us.