



Racine Dominicans
Committed to Truth + Compelled to Justice

PRAY, PONDER, PREACH AND PRACTICE THE WORD OF GOD

Facilitated by Racine Dominican Preaching Committee

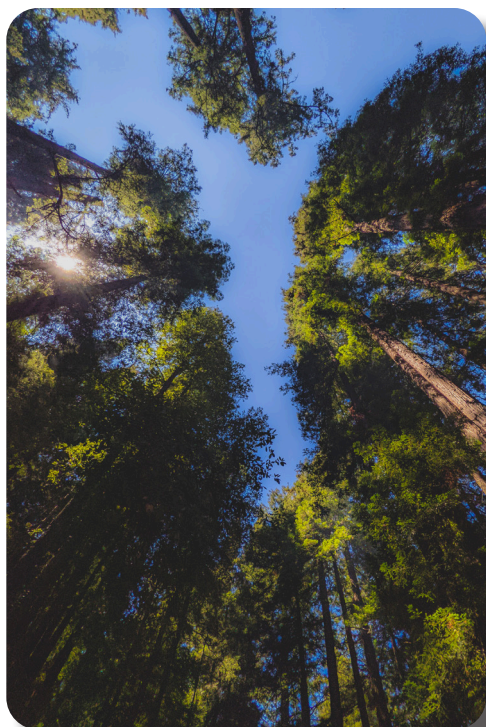
August 2022

The Dimensions of Faith

These weeks of Ordinary Time are full of challenge. Among these challenges are the qualities a disciple of Jesus will need. Foremost of these is faith. Faith is a way of seeing. Either we are going to use the lens of fear and hopelessness that the culture would offer, or we are going to look 'odd' because we see life differently. We view events through a lens of faith with hope in the power of One who brings life even out of death.

So, note the dimensions of faith in the texts of these August Sundays. First, we learn that faith means 'being ready,' for anything. It means that as long as we are 'on the Way,' in Jesus, we are safe even in the midst of trauma. Then we learn that faith will divide us from even family members who choose the fear lens. We will have to stand firm. Next we discover that some folks can be 'in Jesus' and not know it. They cling to God while Jesus is hidden from them. Finally, we learn that faith is humble. It does not strut around. It realizes that God is the One who gives this way of seeing life.

Central to this month of August is the Feast of Mary's Assumption. She is the First of Believers, clinging to the Word of God given her in the deepest darkness. Her Assumption shows us what happens to those who are steadfast in faith. She shines, like her Transfigured Son, beautiful beyond belief.



Lord, I do believe,
Help my unbelief.
The news is heavy these days.
There seems to be no way out
of the endless problems that present themselves:
political, social, medical, religious...
we feel so powerless.
Show us that at such times we need to be
like magnets on a refrigerator door,
hanging on for dear life when we don't have eyes to see
the force that keeps us where we need to be.
You will bring us through.
Help us to be that little spot of light in the darkness
that proves the darkness has not won.
Amen.

Thank you to Associate Joan Brown for this month's reflections.

August 7, 2022

Wisdom 18:6-9, Hebrews 11:1-2 and 8-19, Luke 12:32-48

A thread of faith runs through today's readings. Abraham and Sara trusted God in their old age. They had a deep faith and believed they would have countless decedents and receive a heavenly inheritance, things only God could give. In Luke's gospel, Jesus assures his disciples that the Father knows and provides for all their needs and to stop being afraid, for the Father is also pleased to give them the Kingdom. We likewise have this priceless gift. At time we acquire too many possessions and Jesus tells us to sell our stuff. Faithful servants must "gird their loins" and keep their lamps lit to light the way for Jesus' return. Will the master find us vigilant?

August 14, 2022

Jeremiah 38:4-6 and 8-10, Hebrews 12:1-4, Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples, "I have come to set the earth on fire and how I wish it were already blazing." Thundering words that hit the crowd and disciples alike, a shocking rebuke. Jesus uses images of fire -divine judgement and baptism referring to his death - to break through the crowd's casual attention and skepticism. God does not call us to a tranquil life but one like his own. He seeks bold followers who do not put out fire but keep the fire that he sets ablaze, who accept conflicts and trust that his spirit is working within us.

August 21, 2022

Isaiah 66:18-21, Hebrews 12:5-7 and 11-13, Luke 13:22-30

Life in Christ requires lifelong training – discipline, correction, guidance. The spiritual life is a continuous workout of divine training sessions. A father coach will train his son in the game of sports - correct bad habits, give instructions and active unique plays. He sets his son to strive and struggle, to strain every nerve and muscle until the winning moment. So too our Father holds each one of us. We correct bad habits and activate the unique charisms that we have received in baptism.

August 28, 2022

Sirach 3:17-18 and 28-29, Hebrews 12:18-19 and 22-24a, Luke 14:1, 7-14

The first reading for the fourth Sunday in August begins "My child, conduct your affairs with humility and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts." The role that humility plays in our world spills all around us in nature and everyday living. We are faithful to what we believe. God graced us in so many ways. We must conduct all our affairs with humility, which also denotes gentleness, courtesy and consideration.