Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) 2022

***"Love can accomplish all things.  Things that are most impossible become easy where love is at work." St Therese of Lisieux***

 The Apostles did the **right thing** this time.

* They had been traveling with Jesus for **more than a year**: **living** with him, **hearing** him preach, **watching** him perform miracles and change people's lives.
* They had been his disciples long enough to start realizing that they **were not very good disciples** at all.
* They still did not **understand** many things that Jesus said.
* They still could not **help** people as much as Jesus did.
* It would have been tempting for them, at that point, to get **discouraged**.
* But instead, they **go up to Jesus** one afternoon during a lull in their activities, and they **ask for his help**.
* They ask him to **increase their faith**.
* He **looks** at them and **smiles**. He must have been **glad** that they had asked for help instead of **abandoning** the mission.
* Then he tells them that they do not need **more faith**, they just need to **use** the faith they **already** **have**.
* He explains that a **tiny little bit** of faith, the size of a **mustard seed** - which is about as small as something can be without getting **microscopic** - is **enough** to do **marvelous** things.

**We** are all like the **Apostles**.

* We know in our **hearts** that we are **capable** of doing much **more**, that we were **made** for **greater things**.
* But we don't **realize** that God has already given us **everything** we **need** to **achieve** them.
* He has already planted in our souls the seed of **faith,**of**divine life** - he did so at **baptism**.
* Now it's up to us to **exercise** it. If we do, it will **grow**.
* And the more it **grows**, the more room God will have to do **truly wonderful** things **in** us and **through** us.

 Sometimes we don't **experience** the **full power of faith** in our lives because have the **wrong idea** of what faith really is - we think a **mature faith** makes for **smooth sailing** in life, when in fact, it **doesn't**.

**Doubleday** book publishers put out a book of **letters** written by **Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta** to her spiritual directors.

* The public and the media were **shocked** by these letters.
* Everyone thought that Mother Teresa was the **happiest** person in the world, that her faith was so **strong** that **nothing bothered her**.

And that is exactly the **wrong idea** of what faith is.

Mother Teresa is a **saint**.

* Her faith was **mature**, **strong**, **and contagious** - it moved **mountains,** and it's **still** moving mountains.
* But it didn't make her **crosses** disappear.
* Her faith was so **strong** that she **fulfilled** her promise never to deny God **anything** that he asked - but it didn't take **suffering** out of her life.
* For **fifty years** she struggled with an **interior darkness** and the feeling of being **abandoned** by God.

In one of her letters, she wrote:

* "Lord, my God, who am I that You should **forsake** me?
* "The child of your Love, and now [I have] become as the most **hated** one, the one You have **thrown away** as unwanted, unloved...
* "Where is my Faith? Even deep down right in there is nothing but emptiness and darkness."

Faith isn't a **problem-free philosophy** - that's superficial and naïve.

* Faith is ***strength with length.***
* **I**t's the **power** to **persevere** through **difficulties,**the power that comes from knowing that our **father’s in charge**.

If **that's** our idea of faith, then we **too**, like Mother Teresa, will be able to **move mountains** - even when our souls are so **dark** that we can't **see** them.

Mother Theresa of Calcutta

***“I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God Who is sending a love letter to the world.”***

***This what we are called to be to our spouses, children, neighbors, enemies, church indeed to heaven and earth!***