

Impact

August 2025



Bring faith to life. Find life in faith.

Impact this month

Stop

Take a few moments each day to pause and talk with God about your life.

Look

Look around yourself. Are you attentive to the people in your life? To those who are in need? Do you need to change some aspect of your life in order to more fully focus on the things that are important?

Listen

Listen to God's voice through the readings at Mass and in daily prayer; listen to the people you love; listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within you. How may God be calling you to gain perspective in life by growing in humble faith?

See clearly

Life gets out of control at times. Faith brings focus and perspective.

Anyone who uses glasses or contact lenses to correct vision knows what a difference it makes when things are in focus. **Do you sometimes wish there was a corrective lens for life?** At times, overcommitment creates a blur of activity; a personal or family crisis makes it difficult to focus on the tasks at hand; the constant desire for or acquisition of things distracts us from what is at the heart of authentic, meaningful life.

If we listen carefully to the readings at Mass this month, we will begin to gain insight into the path for bringing focus to our life: ***humble faith***. Such faith recognizes that through it all, God is with us.

"What great need there is to promote an encounter with God, whose tender love values and loves the story of every person!...this requires a readiness to be open, when necessary, to new ways of seeing things and different ways of acting, for each generation is different and has its own challenges, dreams and questions." Pope Leo XIV, May 28, 2025

Faith brings needed perspective to **everything**. Secure in God's love, we are free to seek God and God's ways and embrace our call to be with and for others.



In humble faith, we take the "narrow gate" which at the same time expands our view toward eternal life with God. Through the lens of humble faith, we treasure on things that last and see clearly the path that the Lord sets before us.

With humble faith, our lives come into sharp focus: the blur of activity recedes as we see what is most important; we know that Jesus walks with us, and find peace and consolation through every trial; we learn to separate wants from needs, and focus instead on what is important – faith, family, friends, and especially those who need to know God's love and mercy through us.

What do you treasure?

When we think of “treasure” in relationship to stewardship, our thoughts often first, and perhaps only, go to money. Yet, when we hear how Jesus refers to treasure in the Gospel of Luke he speaks of much more than money: our “treasure” is all that is precious to us. What we “treasure” is a sign of what is important in our lives.

What do you treasure? Family? Security? Money? A sense of purpose or meaning in life? Each of these has the potential for good in our lives and the lives of others; with each we can also lose perspective, placing the person/thing/desire above God, making it an idol. It is this about which Jesus warns us.

Do we “treasure” the hope of Christ, stewarding it well by sharing it lavishly, sacrificially, abundantly as it has been given to us? Re-read the passage from Luke with this in mind (substitute “hope” for kingdom, recognizing that we have hope in the kingdom of God): “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you hope...” Jesus understands that placing God



Jesus said to his disciples:
“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

above all things and building treasure in heaven may initially cause us anxiety or fear — doing so requires us to let go of false perceptions of control and calls us to place our trust instead in God who gives us everything that is good, including mercy, forgiveness, love, and hope. “Do not be afraid” to grow as a steward of hope!

This month, make a renewed commitment to steward hope in God through all you say and do. What action would help you make a “purse” that does not wear out, placing God and the needs of others before your own?

Being a steward of hope means treasuring the gifts of God by treasuring the presence and preciousness of the people around us, especially those most in need. Treasure those who are hungry, thirsty, in need of clothing or shelter, the sick, imprisoned, dying... the doubtful, ignorant, sinners, afflicted, those who offend and hurt us, all who are in need of our prayers. Give them hope as a steward of the grace and goodness of the Lord.

What does it mean to have faith?



Do you ever think about what it means to have faith? Faith is a gift, the grace of God who has created us with an inborn hunger to know him. When we respond to this grace, we come to believe in God and place our trust in him.

Faith is not something we possess, nor is it to be taken for granted. In the letter to the Hebrews, we hear, “Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.” Many people see faith as a denial of reason.

Faith and reason stand together, as it is God who created everything that exists, God who is revealed through scientific exploration, and in the beauty of the world around us, and is present the mystery of Christ’s love, poured out in sacramental signs.

Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we open our minds to the truth of God’s infinite love for each of us. **Through the gift of faith,** our hearts respond by embracing this love as the center of our lives.