



Our Parish Community

October 2, 2022

Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time (C)

Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4

2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

Dear Padre,

Why should we be married in the Church?

At baptism, every Christian is called to be not just Jesus' disciple, but an apostle. While it's easy to see how priests and religious sisters and brothers serve as missionaries, a man and woman joined in the sacrament of matrimony are also missionaries. Saint Paul noted the way a husband and wife love each other reflects how Christ loves his bride, the Church: "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church" (Ephesians 5:25).

The first beneficiaries of the missionary vocation of marriage are the husband and wife. Through their exclusive love, they support each other.



Their relationship is open to sexual expression, allowing the body and soul of two to become one. And, if God wills, children will benefit from the Christian bond of their parents. They bring their children to baptism, then teach them about their faith at home through example and instruction.

Those who encounter a couple throughout their lives—relatives, friends, coworkers, parishioners, and even strangers—benefit from their Christian marriage. How often have we been touched by the sight of an older couple walking hand in hand?

God will reveal to them only in eternity how many lives have been impacted by their love.

Jesus praised matrimony as part of the initial vocation given to humanity (see Mark 10:6-9). Without reproduction, there would have been no human race. But humans, created in God's image, lead lives reflecting God's love. In the couple who says, "I do," God's love shines brightly as a light to the world.

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A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Marriage isn't just a social act. It's a vocation that's born from the heart, a conscious decision for the rest of one's life that requires specific preparation....God has a dream for us, love, and he asks us to make it our own. Let us make our own the love which is God's dream for us.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION, JUNE 1, 2021

Have Faith

That is so easy to say and so hard to do. This might be because we misunderstand what faith is and what it might do. Today's readings offer us three glimpses into what the Bible means by faith.

The reading from Habakkuk and the Gospel passage seem to contradict each other. The Gospel suggests that one can do wondrous things if one's faith is strong enough. Many people understand this literally and then are confused and terribly disappointed when things do not turn out as they wanted. Habakkuk is in a dire situation. He had turned to God, but it seems to no avail: "You do not intervene" (Habakkuk 1:2). What response did he get? "Don't give up. Don't lose faith."

Paul's letter was written to Timothy, one of Paul's own converts to faith in the risen Lord. Paul encourages Timothy to remain steadfast in that faith. It's clear that faith is not solely a set of beliefs and doctrines; it is a way of life—one that follows and is

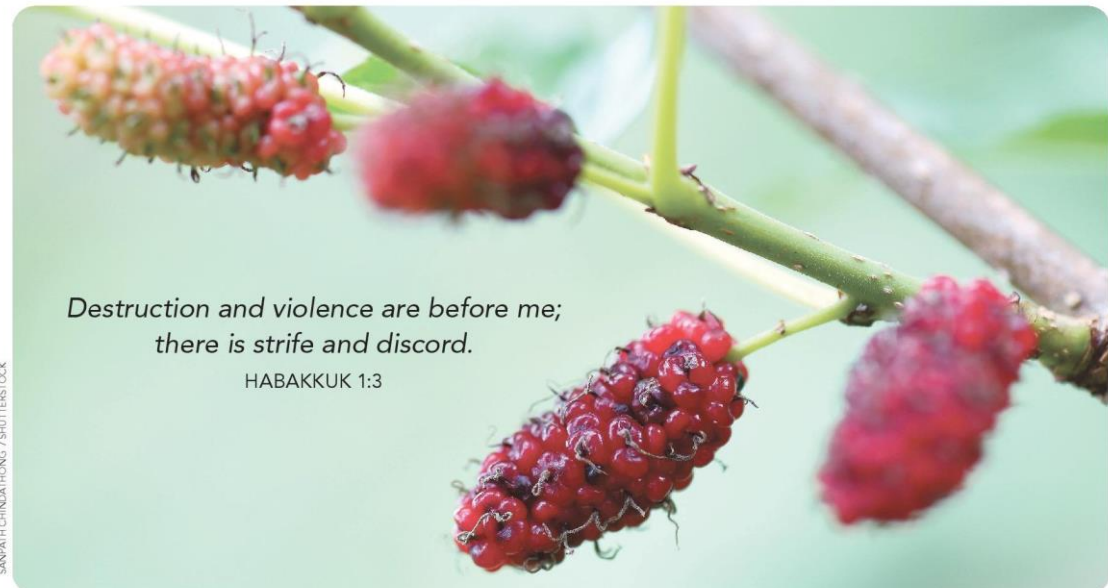
inspired by the example Jesus' life provides. It is also clear that living such a life might be dangerous, as evidenced by Paul's own imprisonment.

Reading the Gospel passage again after considering these reflections, one might understand the power of faith in a new way. Perhaps the mulberry tree stands for the struggles that had to be endured by Habakkuk, the danger that Timothy faced in a hostile world, and the hurdles that challenge our own faith. It assures us that if we don't lose faith, we also can do wondrous things.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ For you, what is the difference between faith as what you believe and faith as how you live?
- ★ How might your faith help you get beyond life's hurdles?



*Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife and discord.*

HABAKKUK 1:3