**“Trust”**

All our readings point us to the word “Trust.” The word of the Lord protects those who put their trust in Him. Trusting in someone is to believe that whatever their promises maybe, they will be unshaken. Their promises could be relied upon as being truthful. Trust means to make another person one with ourselves. It means to totally embrace that person as thinking, speaking, and acting in a way that is in accord with our thinking and acting. When we trust in God, it means surrendering our total being to Him. It means letting Him lead us, while we follow. It means trusting God with our whole heart and mind, knowing He will always take care of us and accepting whatever He allows to happen to us in this life as part of His plan for our good.

Our life is not our own, it belongs to God, so we must turn our hearts, our strength, and our mind to Him, trusting and worshipping Him as the source of our being. We must trust in God with all our heart and not rely on our own judgment. We must trust in Him believing that He is continuously holding us, loving us, and sustaining us in all the good that we do. We must trust in Him that He will never leave us His children alone and He will give us the strength and courage to perform any task He might ask of us. When we trust in God, He will guide and guard our steps from following the wrong part. When we totally put our trust in Him, it would be like the familiar story of the footsteps in the sand.

The Lord will delight in us when we put our trust in Him. He is kind and compassionate and never fails those who put their trust in Him. When we place our trust in God in this present life, our thought and praise will be directed towards Him which will lead to our praise of Him in the life to come and we shall rejoice for eternity. We have been promised something we long to possess and because the promise has been made by the one who is trustworthy, we put our trust in Him and delight in Him. To receive our promise in the next life, so to this end, we have to start practicing praising God right from our temporary earthly home.

The Church has given us two liturgical seasons to practice praising God for eternity. We have this period we are in now during Lent, to practice praising God by fasting, praying and giving alms to the poor. It is a period we go through trials and tribulations. It would be a good practice to give praise and thanks to God even during our trials and tribulations. The other period, would be from Easter and afterwards when we will rejoice and give more praise to God. The period before Easter could be compared to the time we are on earth, and the period during Easter and after, could be compared to the happiness we will have in heaven if we put our trust in God and obey His commandment of love.

Our first reading today, is the beginning of the story of our salvation. All the stories in the first eleven chapters painted a composite picture the need for our salvation. From the story of Adam and Eve, the tower of Babel, and the flood. In essence, the first eleven chapters of Genesis set the stage for the beautiful story of our salvation beginning with Abraham who was first named Abram. God gave Abram the gift of faith which leads to the gift of trust. Without warning God told Abram and his wife to leave their familiar land and their beloved families to go to a completely unknown land. Trusting in God, they obeyed the command of God.

To us in our individualistic culture, that would not sound strange to us. It would actually be normal. People here today have roots from different parts of the Country not talking about our ancestors who came from different parts of the world. But for Abram and Sarah, it would be a radical change of way of living. They would not have the comfort of living in an extended or cloistered family anymore. The obedience to the call of God was a total trust in in God to a future beyond their control. However, when we reflect on the obedience and surrender of Abram and Sarah, it is a call for all of us to surrender to a future that is unknown. It is a call that God has called all of us as we grow from childhood to adulthood and form our individualist nuclei families. It is a call that can be joyful, challenging, freighting, and full of adventure.

 In our second reading from 2 Timothy, St. Paul told Timothy that by trusting in God Timothy would be able to bear any hardship that might come his way because of his trust in Jesus Christ and His Gospel. That Timothy would be able to bear the hardship through the grace that comes from God and not from Himself. In other words, he needed to trust God completely. We all also have some share of hardship in our lives for the Gospel. There is no cheap grace, there is always some hardship that comes along with following the Gospel. St Paul in one of his Epistles listed the types of price He had to endure for following the Gospel.

There is an old saying that ***“You get what you pay for.”*** This means that the cheaper the product, the more likely it will breakdown and then thrown away. But when we think about God, the saying, ***“You get what you pay for”*** does not apply. Rather, what should come to mind is, ***“The best things in life are free.”*** We cannot buy God’s favor. Rather, when we trust in Him, He will pour down His grace upon us free of charge! We, cannot buy heaven, because, the best things in life, are totally free. They are given to us by God out of pure love for us. God through His son has saved us and called us to live a holy life. We will get our good reward when we trust in Him and obey His commandments of love.

In our Gospel reading, we heard that Jesus took three of His Apostles Peter, James, and John up the mountain. The three represent the people of the New Testament. They are symbols of ourselves a people of fulfilment. They gazed upon the awesome glorified Jesus, not comprehending the full meaning of who He is, what His glorification means to them, and why Jesus allowed them to see what they saw. Jesus allowed them to see what they saw to strengthen their faith ahead of the scandal of the cross. On seeing Him glorified and hearing the voice of the Father, telling them to obey or listen to Him, they would have deeper trust in Him that He is whom He said He is.

However, we know what happened during His trial and crucifixion even after they saw Jesus glorified and heard the testimony of God the Father about Jesus’ Son-ship. Peter the one chosen to lead His Church denied Him three times; saying he never knew Him and even swore in denying Him. James was nowhere to be seen. He ran away in fear and abandoned Jesus. Only John we heard was at the foot of the cross with Him. There was something special about the transfiguration which allowed the chosen three to see firstly, the three heavenly figures and secondly to see Jesus in His glory. Of the heavenly figures, Moses represented the Law of the Old Testament while Elijah represented the prophets and Jesus the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

As represented by the three earthly people, Peter James, and John, we should see ourselves as part of God’s plan. Although the plan is fulfilled in Jesus, it has not yet reached completion. Through faith and trust in Jesus, we look upon Jesus as being glorified through His death and resurrection, and yet we cannot grasp what is yet to come when Jesus will come again in glory with His Angels. In that coming, we will be caught up in His everlasting glory. That is why every Mass, is a reminder that we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

As we come with utmost reverence to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us tell Jesus I trust in you.