

August 12, 2007

## After the Heart of Jesus ...

*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for  
and evidence of things not seen.  
Hebrews 11:1-2*



The Scriptures tell us that faith is confident assurance concerning what we hope for, and conviction about things we do not see. The eleventh chapter from Hebrews gives example after example of people filled with faith. It has been called Faith's Hall of Fame. Noah, before the first drop of rain from the great flood had fallen, by faith built the ark to save his family. Abraham didn't know where or if he would find the Promised Land, but by faith he looked forward to the city with foundation whose designer and maker is God. Sarah, by faith, believed that the One who has made the promise that she would bare a son in her old age was worthy of trust. By faith, Abraham offered Isaac. By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau. By faith, Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born. By faith, Moses kept the Passover. By faith, the Israelites passed through the Red Sea. By faith, the walls of Jericho fell. The examples go on and on. The closing thought in this chapter of Hebrews is that while all of these people were commended for their faith, none of them received what had ultimately been promised, none received God's total reward, because they died before Christ came. Yet in God's plan, they and the Christian believers would be rewarded together.

These are all examples of the results or the fruit of faith, but an important question we are asking at St. Walter Church is "What gives people faith?" Or "Where does faith come from?"

Ultimately our faith is about a relationship between ourselves and God. That relationship begins and is present before we ever become aware of it or acknowledge we want it. It just is. Faith comes to life when we recognize the presence of our connection with God. It comes from knowing we are loved by God and that God is with us and in us no matter what happens. As it grows, faith becomes the source of hope – that which helps us move into the future with greater confidence. We will know in faith, that regardless of whatever horizons -- whatever challenges -- whatever is unknown and mysterious that lies ahead -- God truly has prepared a place for us in the future. Faith reminds us that we may not know what tomorrow holds, but we know who holds tomorrow.

I am grateful to those who have been hosting this summer's Home Masses. There are a few more to go. I am looking forward to this Sunday's Home Mass with our high school teens at the home of **Tom** and **Chris Hollatz**. We have a very energetic and Spirit-ed group of teens in our parish. New people are always welcome to join.

Thank you to **Brad Wojcicki**. His Eagle Scout project was to construct the landscaping area around the sign on Hill Street. He coordinated the design, obtained the materials, and arranged for the labor to complete the project. It is now a safer and more beautiful area. Great job, Brad! Actually, many people (our Garden Angels) have worked very hard to keep the landscape beautiful. Thank you to them as well for all their work, especially in the heat of the summer.



August is Catholic Charities month, when we learn more about the good works that Catholic Charities does in our name for the poor, for abused and neglected children, for the disadvantaged, and for those needing counseling. Next weekend we will be taking up a collection for both Catholic Charities of DuPage County and our local St. Vincent DePaul Society. Envelopes will be available in Church for this special collection.

We are in the process of doing a parish census. We want to make sure that our database of parishioners is up-to-date and accurate. All families that are currently registered at St. Walter Church should receive a census form with an explanation letter in the mail. Please complete the form as soon as possible and return it either through the mail, by placing it in the Sunday collection, or by dropping it off at the parish house.

The Parish Community Fest is just two weeks away! Check the bulletin for all the details for the August 26 Fest. If you are interested in volunteering, please let **Karen Campe** know. Of course I am always concerned that there will be enough Fun for everyone. I would like to have a few extra attractions -like a rock climbing wall and dunk tank. But these need sponsors to make sure that they do not cost us more money than we could make. If you are interested in sponsoring an attraction, please call me at the parish house.

This week, may our faith lead us to greater assurance in the things we have hoped for.

After the Heart of Jesus!  
*Father John*