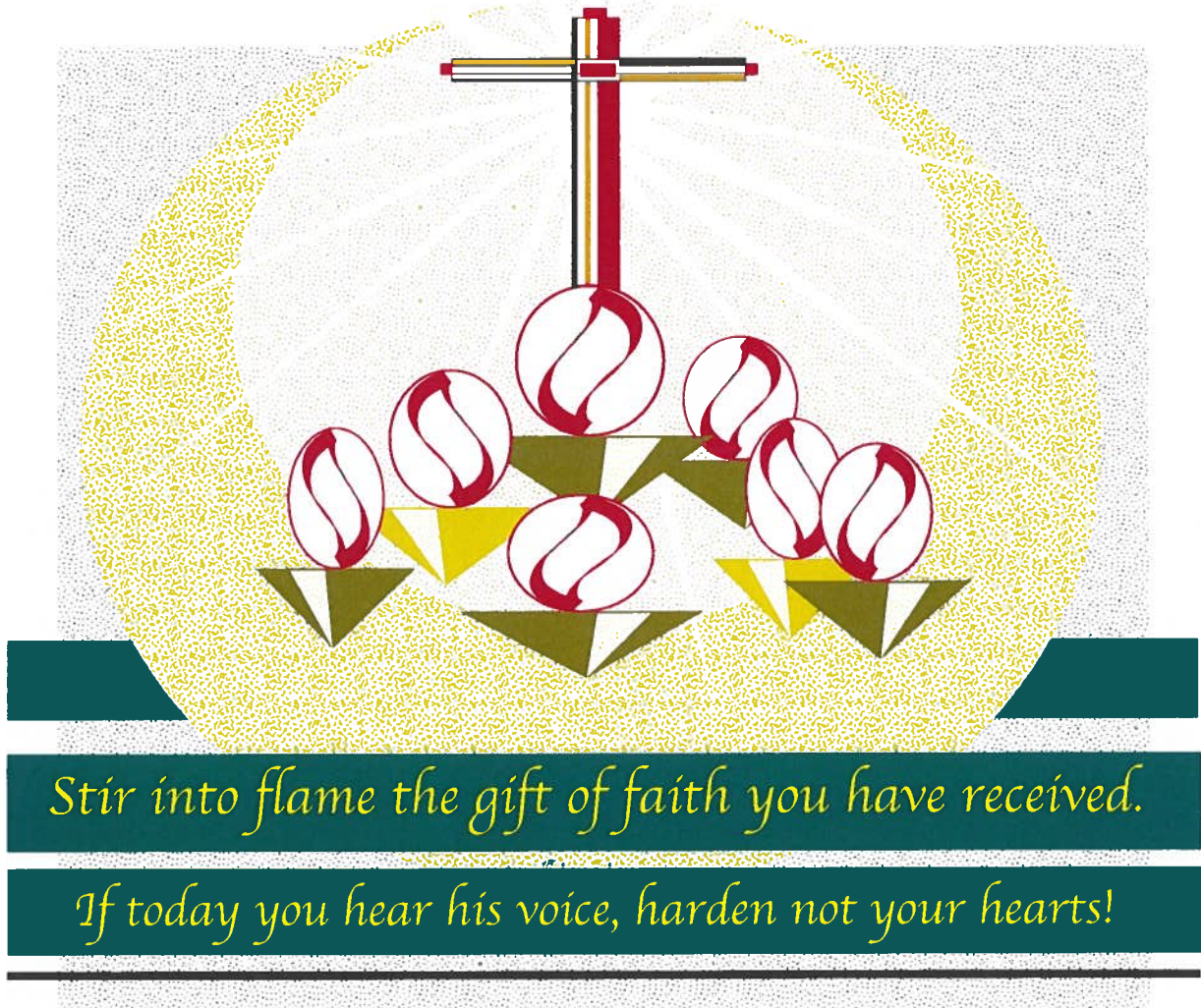


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 4-5, 2025



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the words of our God will stand forever."

—Isaiah 40:8

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time			October 11-12, 2025	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Oct. 11 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Oct. 11 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Oct. 12 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Oct. 12 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Dan Hoffman Gery Wright Dave Emling Roger Jensen	Kyle Ferris Daryl Ferris	Jerry Ogrentz Mary Offerman Bob Buente Arlen Hansen	Brent Fulton Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler Jeremy Wolles
Lector	Hillary Smith	Darlene Cipcish	Dave Ladehoff	Julie Splear
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—C. Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Julie Splear

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Oct. 6 (SH)

8:00 am +Sterling Bouchard (M/M Jay Richie)

Tuesday, Oct. 7 (SH)

8:00 am +Wayne, Mike, & Pat McCarty (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Oct. 8 (SJ)

8:00 am +Marie Costigan (Rita Thiesen)

Friday, Oct. 10 (SJ)

8:00 am +Mary Kelch (Larry/Connie Kelch)

Saturday, Oct. 11 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Tom Buckley (Schneider Families)
+Madonna Hoffman (Mark Gerberding)

Sunday, Oct. 12

7:30 am (SH) +Dorine Schafer (Steve Scanlon)
+James Perry (Don/Marie Feller))

9:00 am (SJ) +Lois Jensen (Judy Harling)
+Vicki Peerbolte (Dr. R.L. Peerbolte)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Families

A Look Ahead

Monday, Oct. 6—Tri-Parish Prayer Meeting at SJ 7pm
Tuesday, Oct. 7—Combined Parish Council Mtg SH 7pm
Wednesday, Oct. 8—Adult Ed SJ 7pm
Sat., October 11—Rosary Rally SMM noon
Sun., October 12—No RE at SMM and SJ
Mon., Oct. 13—No Prayer Meeting this week

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550
Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com
Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com
TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org
Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities
Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550
Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550
debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com
Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015
St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com
Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 ldstreefarms@aol.com
St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)
Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)
Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the week:

What can I do this week to be an "unprofitable servant" in God's eyes?

Collections Weekend of Sept. 27-28

St. Margaret Mary—\$2,057

Sacred Heart—\$916

St. James—\$1,280

Thank you for your generosity!

Reflection Indescribable

A man visited for the first time the famed Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. His wife, who had seen the caverns before, was with him. As they went forward midst scenes of dazzling beauty, he kept exclaiming, "Isn't this wonderful!"

The farther they went, the more beautiful the sights. Reaching the King's Palace, he asked his wife, "Why haven't you told me about this?"

"I couldn't. I couldn't find words sufficient to describe it!"

Heaven is a place of indescribable beauty and ineffable joy. How powerless we are to describe its glory and wonders!

"Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him."

It's Time to Sign Up!!!!

If you haven't signed up to get your picture taken for the new Tri-Parish directory, you can call the office between 9 am—Noon on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays.

If you prefer, go to the website www.ucdir.com Our church code is: il427 Password is: photos
There is no pressure to purchase pictures at your session. If you get your photo taken, you will receive a Free 8 x 10 and a new Church Directory!! What a deal!! If you choose to submit a photo, there will be a \$15 Charge.

Also: if you would like to get multi-generational pictures taken (Photo will not be in the directory) with your adult children and grandchildren, you can book back to back appointments with no sitting fee.

If there are more than 5 people, please book 2 time slots.



Dates are
October 16, 17,
and 18.

SMM 10:30 parishioners—Make sure you get your gospel gift from the Religious Education students this morning!

Parish News:

All Parishes—

⇒ *The Kankakee Deanery CCW Board organizes the events of which your CCW parish women attend - Joy in January and Spring Institute. The Board would like to invite women of your parish to attend our next board meeting. It is with a desire for your input and ideas. Our meeting is October 27, 2025 (5:00 p.m.) at St. John Paul II. Any questions, please contact Rhonda Berns at 815-545-9519.*

⇒ *Our Adult Ed class will next meet on October 8 at 7 pm at St. James.*

⇒ *It's time for a new Pictorial Directory! Our dates are Oct. 16-18. Just for participating you will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a church directory. Be watching for more upcoming information,.*

⇒ *Wits Workout will be moved to St. James hall from August 25 until further notice. Everyone is welcome; you can begin at any time. Wits Workout is on Monday from 1-2pm. If you would like to join us, please call Natalia at Catholic Charities at 815-933-7791 ext. 9954.*

⇒ *Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.*

St. Margaret Mary-

⇒ *Weekday masses until further notice are Mondays at Sacred Heart and Fridays at St. James.*

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

⇒ *For the week of October 5th, the St. Joseph candle in memory of Rose Kaminsky. The week of October 5th the Blessed Virgin Mary candle burns in memory of Dolores Fitch*

⇒ *Sunday Oct. 5th will be the CCW's annual Bake Sale at the Salina Fire Dept. in Bonfield. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated*



Kids Helping Kids

The tri-parish religious ed programs are working together this year to raise money for a charity that helps children.

Sacred Heart—There is a jug in the back of the church for donations. It will be there throughout the school year.

St. Margaret Mary—There will be a first collection at each Youth Mass asking for donations for the Kids Helping Kids program.

St. James— Thanks to all who purchased pumpkins or gourds to support our mission to help kids!

Obscure saint of the week: St. Anna Schaeffer (Oct. 5) was the daughter of a poor carpenter. Anna dropped out of school at age 14 to work as a maid and had hopes of a religious vocation, but her father's death left her working to support the family. She was a lifelong lay woman. In 1898 she received a vision of Christ who warned her that she had many years of pain ahead of her. She was paralyzed by an industrial accident in 1901 when she fell into a vat of boiling water and lost the use of her legs. From her sick bed she carried out an apostolate through correspondence. Anna was known for her devotion to the Sacred Heart. She may have received the stigmata but always tried to hide the signs of it.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Apollinaris of Valence was the son of Saint Isychius and elder brother of Saint Avitus of Vienne. He became the bishop of Valence, France in 486 after a long vacancy in the diocese. Apollinaris exhausted himself in reforming abuses and re-vitalizing the faith. He was exiled by King Sigismund for political reasons but allowed to return when he miraculously healed the king.

Gospel Shorts - Our Eternal Obligation

The Text: Our Eternal Obligation. "So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" Luke 17:10

What are we supposed to be about anyway? To live for ourselves? Well, hardly. God always has better ideas for our lives than we do. Therefore, we would do well to have as our central purpose the goal of serving God and letting our lives unfold as God intends. As one man wisely said, "There is your plan and God's plan and your plan doesn't matter." It doesn't because God's plan is so superior to ours.

Our eternal obligation is to love and serve God, nothing else. And when our time on earth is over and we stand before the Lord, we can say what our Lord said we should say: "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty." But remember, "In God's will, there is perfect peace."

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

The apostles came up and said to the Master, "Give us more faith."

But the Master said, "You don't need more faith. There is no 'more' or 'less' in faith. If you have a bare kernel of faith, say the size of a poppy seed, you could say to this sycamore tree, 'Go jump in the lake,' and it would do it.

"Suppose one of you has a servant who comes in from plowing the field or tending the sheep. Would you take his coat, set the table, and say, 'Sit down and eat'? Wouldn't you be more likely to say, 'Prepare dinner; change your clothes and wait table for me until I've finished my coffee; then go to the kitchen and have your supper'? Does the servant get special thanks for doing what's expected of him? It's the same with you. When you've done everything expected of you, be matter-of-fact and say, 'The work is done. What we were told to do, we did' " (from Luke 17).



"Are those two the greatest ushers we've ever had, or what?"

Reflection A Time to Be Open

A young man left the city to make sandals and grow vegetables in Maine. His alien life-style shook his parents. But they admitted that it might well be a valid one for him. Their openness gave him freedom to find his own way without guilt.

- Are you willing to admit the possibility that other viewpoints and lifestyles are legitimate?
- Are you open to the possibility that "This is the way we've always done it" doesn't automatically make a course of action the best one?

Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Jesus' message to Faustina: bake some bread

Our Lord used this saint to be a messenger of His love in every way.

You may know St. Faustina Kowalska as God's messenger of Divine Mercy.

Christ spoke to Faustina directly for years. Through visions and conversations, Christ gave St. Faustina the message of Divine Mercy that has changed the world.

But did you know Christ also used St. Faustina for small, humble tasks as well?

Once, while St. Maria Faustina was in the convent kitchen in Vilnius, she heard Jesus speak to her heart with a simple yet challenging request: He asked her to bake bread for the poor.

Faustina paused, her hands still dusted with flour from the loaves she was already preparing for the sisters. She wasn't the one in charge of distributing food and the convent had strict rules about such matters. But the instruction felt clear, so she took a deep breath, set aside her own hesitation, and quietly set to work making extra loaves.

That afternoon, as she carried out her daily tasks, a few unexpected visitors came to the convent—a handful of poor men, looking hungry and weak. Without hesitation, Faustina welcomed them and handed over the bread she'd made. She offered no explanations, understanding that this was simply an act of obedience to Jesus.

Later that evening, her mother superior noticed the missing bread. When she asked Faustina about it, Sister Faustina calmly explained what had happened, mentioning only that Jesus had asked her to do it. To Faustina's relief, her superior didn't question her; she only nodded.

May we be inspired to listen obediently to the voice of Jesus, remembering that, even if we are not called to receive visions, we are all called to be His messengers of love, just as St. Faustina was.

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Questions Catholics Ask

Isn't it a sin to vow something for life to God and then break it?

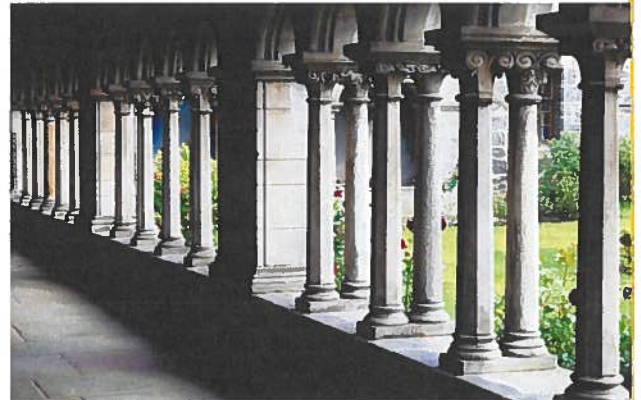
Don't fully professed sisters sin if they leave their order?

"A vow is a deliberate and free promise made to God concerning a possible and better good which must be fulfilled by reason of the virtue of religion." So says The Code of Canon Law (CCC 1191). Another section outlines rules for taking public religious vows (CCC 654-658). Yet just as God is merciful, the church must also be merciful. Which is why Canon Law includes a process known as dispensation to relieve a person from such vows (see CCC 85-93). Dispensation is "the relaxation of a merely ecclesiastical law in a particular case" (CCC 85).

Church law is flexible when applied to individuals and specific cases. The law recognizes that human circumstances aren't static; therefore, some changes receive the favor of the law's flexibility. For a just cause, a religious sister or brother may request and receive dispensation from solemn or perpetual vows. "Just cause" may be a grave or debilitating difficulty fulfilling the requirements of religious life. No penalty is exacted for being released from perpetual vows. In no way does it remove the person's right of access to the sacraments. Religious persons released to the lay state remain baptized Catholics in good standing.

No shadow of sin is attached to the request for dispensation from solemn vows. Dispensation is offered under the grace and peace of Jesus—who gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom as a symbol of the church's authority "to bind and to loose." If a religious person is released from vows on earth, s/he is also assured such release in the sight of God.

To remain in good standing with the Church, a person seeking dispensation must follow the procedure of release from religious life. The dispensation must be sought from the "competent authority": the major religious superior or bishop in some cases, the pope in others. Once a sister or brother has prayerfully discerned to leave religious life, the order or congregation is obliged to do everything possible to assist in requesting the dispensation. The order or congregation is also required to help the person financially in the transition to lay life. Scripture has lots to say about taking vows—and breaking them. People are weak and prone to err. Therefore Jesus considers that vows and oaths should be made only sparingly. Thank God that mercy is given to those who show mercy!



Religious persons released to the lay state remain baptized Catholics

Scripture: Genesis 28:20 (first vow); Leviticus 22:20-25 (unfulfilled with imperfect sacrifice); 27:2, 8 (require adjustment); Numbers 6:1-21 (binding for a time); Numbers 31 (women's vows: inferior?); Deuteronomy 23:22-24; Judges 11:29-39 (keeping an illicit vow); Ecclesiastes 5:1-6; Matthew 5:33-37

90TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE

FOR



SHIRLEY ST. GERMAINE

OCTOBER 5TH
1PM TO 4PM

SACRED HEART CHURCH HALL, GOODRICH

REFRESHMENTS SERVED
NO GIFTS PLEASE

CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE

Please Join us for a fundraiser to support:

Knights of Columbus
Ladies Auxiliary

Come to **TACO JOHN'S**

Located at 562 William Latham Drive, Bourbonnais
Between 4-7pm
on Wednesday, October 22nd

50% of your entire purchase will be given to the
to the organization

All you have to do to participate is show this flyer
(printed, or on mobile device) or just mention it to
the cashier.

All proceeds benefit local charities, Clergy
Appreciation Lunch and supporting seminarians.



2025 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY RALLY

Where: St. Margaret Mary Church, Main St., Herscher, Illinois

When: October 11, 2025 – ROSARY WILL BEGIN AT 12:00 NOON



Please join us in praying for our nation

Let's **MAKE** Disciples for Jesus!

Download and read Bishop
Hicks' new pastoral letter,
MAKE, to discover how you
and your loved ones can live as
disciples and help make other
disciples in your community.

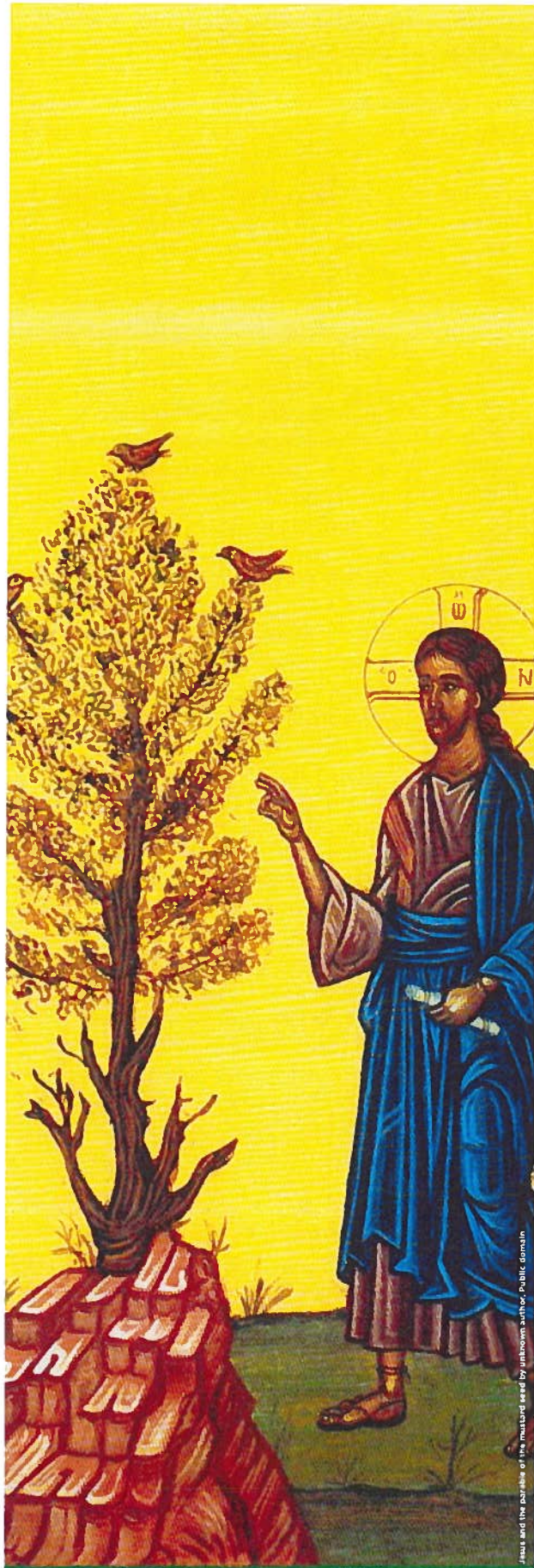


MAKE.diojoliet.org



MAKE

A Pastoral Letter for the People
of the Diocese of Joliet



October 5, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4 | 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14 | Lk 17:5-10

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples: "When you have done all you have been commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'" I think what Jesus is drawing us to see is the humility we need as his disciples. It's easy to get puffed up, thinking, "Well, I've done this" or "I've done that" in service of God. We can even start to feel that God owes us. But we are called to love God for God's own sake, not for the accolades or even the reward that comes from faithfully serving him. St. Ignatius of Loyola penned a beautiful prayer called the Prayer for Generosity that expresses the sentiment that I feel is at the heart of our Scriptures today: "Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost ... to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward save the knowledge that I have done your will." Let's ask God to help us to serve him with generous hearts.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In his second letter to Timothy, Paul calls us to "bear [our] share of the hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." Serving the Lord requires that we rely on the gift of the Spirit within us who empowers us to serve courageously and generously. The good news, Paul tells us, is that "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." In our efforts to serve God and to share our faith with others, let's remember that it is God's grace that is at work within us, equipping us and strengthening us. Let's remember Jesus' promise that even, if we only have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, we can still do great things for God. Indeed, through the gift of faith and the gift of his Holy Spirit, God has truly given us immense spiritual power.

PRAY

Take a moment to examine your own heart. Is your discipleship fueled more by a hope of reward (heaven), or, by pure love of God? Take some time to pray with St. Ignatius of Loyola's Prayer for Generosity (the full text can be found online), asking the Lord to increase your generosity in serving him.

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Pet 1:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The word of the Lord remains for ever.

This is the word that has been proclaimed to you.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 17:5-10; L141C

The apostles said to the Lord,
"Increase our faith."

The Lord replied,

"If you have faith the size
of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mul-
berry tree,

'Be uprooted and planted in
the sea,' and it would
obey you.

"Who among you would say to
your servant
who has just come in from plowing or
tending sheep in the field,
'Come here immediately and take
your place at table'?

Would he not rather say to him,
'Prepare something for me to eat.
Put on your apron and wait on me
while I eat and drink.
You may eat and drink when I am
finished'?

Is he grateful to that servant because
he did what was commanded?
So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been
commanded,
say, 'We are unprofitable servants;
we have done what we were obliged
to do.'

Reflecting on the Gospel

The prophet Habakkuk wants God to intervene and put an end to the distress of his time. God's answer to Habakkuk is an order to write down the vision clearly upon tablets so that everyone can read it readily. The prophet is reminded that although it seems long in coming, the vision of God's peaceable reign will surely be fulfilled. He must be patient and stay faithful.

The divine directive to Habakkuk is an excellent reminder to us that no transformative change ever comes without being grounded in the vision of God's peaceable reign. It is not enough, however, to wait patiently and persistently keep the vision alive in one's own mind and heart. God directs the prophet to write down the vision, not only to keep it before his own eyes as a way to bolster his own flagging hope, but also to publicize it so that it boosts communal faith and committed action.

It is precisely when things seem at their worst that the prophet is called to articulate the vision. In the struggle for civil rights in the United States, it was when the backlash against Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision for an end to racism was

most intense that he publicly proclaimed the dream of equality and freedom for all. Likewise, it is from prison, where Paul is suffering great hardship, that he writes the vision for Timothy, reminding him that God has given him the power of love, self-control, and strength. By stirring this gift into flame, he can overcome any fear or cowardice in giving his testimony to the gospel.

Not unlike Habakkuk, the disciples in today's gospel want Jesus to fix things by giving them more faith. Jesus reassures them that they already have faith enough to transform what seems utterly immovable. A mulberry tree has a deep and extensive root system and is extremely difficult to uproot and replant. It is an apt image for deep-rooted systems of injustice and violence. A mustard seed, by contrast, is tiny, but spreads like wildfire, and is also nearly impossible to eradicate. Disciples who feel puny in the face of massive systems of injustice have all they need to do the transformative work toward fulfillment of Jesus's vision of the reign of God. Jesus encourages them by saying not only that they have all the faith they need but also that it is by their persistent, day-in, day-out service that the transformation of seemingly intractable systems comes about. Moreover, just as fieldwork and table service were simply what was required of a slave in Jesus's time, so faithful service on behalf of the gospel is what is expected of disciples.

The final verse of today's gospel does not assert that faithful servants are "unprofitable" (NABRE), "worthless" (NRSV), or "useless" (NJB), as some translations render the Greek *achreioi*. Rather, the word literally means that they are "without need." Proclaiming the empowering vision of God's reign and rendering faithful service to bring it about satisfies every want and need of disciples.

