

Active And Living Faith!

The disciples in this Sunday's Gospel (Luke 17:5-10) saw the practical ways Jesus has demonstrated faith in God. Thus, they asked Jesus, "Lord, increase our faith." The disciples were asking Jesus to teach them ways to deepen their relationship with God, which would make them not only know about God but know God.

Our first reading today (Habakkuk 1:2-3,2:2-4) gives an excellent background to the Gospel. Prophet Habakkuk emphasized, "but the just one, because of his faith, shall live." Likewise, Paul reminds Timothy in the Second Reading of today (2 Timothy 1:6-8,13-14), "I am reminding you to fan into a flame the gift that God gave you when I laid my hands on you."

Faith is a gift from God, and our relationship with God depends on the extent we are open to receiving this gift from God and making it active and living in our lives. Faith shapes and directs our relationship with God. For, "without faith, it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Active and living faith blossoms God's gifts in us and challenges to use the gifts to serve others. As Apostle James stated, "Faith without good works is dead." Let us, as the disciples asked, pray for an increase in faith that is active and living. Amen.

Bishop Oscar Cantu, on December 6, 2021, following the call of Pope Francis to be a "listening Church," called on Catholics in the diocese of San Jose to begin a yearlong process of prayer, listening, consultation, and discernment in preparation for our first Diocesan Synod to be held on January 27 – 29, 2023. The four marks (pillars) of the Church: ***One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic***, will guide the synod's consultation, discernment, and planning process. We join our brothers and sisters throughout the diocese to pray and participate in the synod process. Amen.

Blessed Cyprain Iwene Tansi- Pray for us!