

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS Monday, November 7, 2016

Today's Prayer and Reflection:

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you. (Luke 17:6)

"I didn't think I was smart enough to go to college, but my teachers saw things in me that I couldn't see. They helped me discover that I really can succeed!"

Like the young man who made this remark, many of us can identify some achievement that we owe to the encouragement of a friend, spiritual advisor, or some other cheerleader. People like these help us see our potential; they push us to reach beyond our limited vision and accomplish what we thought was impossible.

That's what Jesus is doing for the apostles in today's Gospel. He has just told them to forgive seven times a day—constantly. They respond to this seemingly impossible instruction with willingness and alarm: "Increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). It's as if they're saying, "We know we have some faith, but it's far too small! Give us a greater ability to live according to what we believe."

How does Jesus answer? He tells them not to fixate on how small or inadequate their faith feels. He tells them that though their faith may be just "the size of a mustard seed," they have sufficient faith to do everything he asks, even if it seems impossible (Luke 17:6).

Of course, Jesus wants us to keep growing in faith too. But how does that happen? By using it! The "small" faith that has already been planted in us has powerful potential. But in order to unleash all that potential, we have to act on it, just as Jesus' first disciples learned to do. Remember how he sent them out to announce the kingdom, cure the sick, and expel demons? They went equipped only with their "small" faith and "returned rejoicing"—and maybe a little surprised—at the marvels they had worked in Jesus' name (Luke 10:17).

What about you? God has given you a mission. Is he calling you to do something that feels beyond your level of faith? Repair a long-broken relationship? Pray with someone for healing, and expect a miracle? Don't sell God—or yourself—short! God can use you just as he used the disciples "to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Take it one step of faith at a time, and watch what happens.

"Jesus, I want to exercise the faith you have given me."

Today's Announcements:

- Congratulations to the Lady Irish cross country team for winning the 3A state championship this weekend!

- St. Patrick will hold an ACT Workshop the weekend of November 12 and 13. If you're interested in attending any of the three sections (math, science, and/or English), see Mrs. Tavel in room 100.
- Sophomores, remember your applications for Hugh O'Brian are due today.
- National Honor Society, please pay your dues as soon as possible and bring your canned food.
- The library is closed today.
- Attention Seniors: if you registered to vote and still have not received your voter ID card in the mail, it's okay, you are registered to vote. Stop by and see Mr. Hewes if you have any questions.
- Congratulations to the seventh grade boys basketball team for taking second place in the Vancleave Tournament on Saturday. Coach Hewes is very proud of the team and is looking forward to a great season
- In keeping with basketball news, can you feel the electricity in air? As if you grabbed a tesla coil with your bare hands? That's right, the Fighting Irish basketball teams kick off their regular season this week. Please come out and support the junior high teams today in our home opener as we battle Stone County. Seventh grade girls begin at 4:00, seventh grade boys at 5:00, eighth grade girls at 6:00, and eighth grade boys at 7:00.
- National Junior Honor Society members, don't forget to bring canned food items to Mrs. Gollott's classroom on or before Wednesday, November 9. Refer to your group messages or the agenda handout from last week's meeting for information on what you need to bring.
- Congratulations to the sailing team for placing third overall in the Mississippi High School sailing team championship and second in the state. Congratulations to skippers James Edwards, Teal Salloum, Clayton Stoddard, and Mallory Edwards, and crew members Claire Wingfield, Chloe Aschenbach, Chase Vivian and Ali Ware.
- FCA members should stop by Coach Dellenger's room to pick up the Disciple Cross order form sheet. FCA members should sell three or more.