



Archdiocesan Program

WHY CATHOLIC?

STRENGTHENING FAITH ... MAKING DISCIPLES



THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD

Biblical Reflection: Heb 11:1-12

The invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company. The adequate response to this invitation is faith. (CCC 142)

By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation "the obedience of faith". (CCC 143)

Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time and inseparably, it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed. As personal adherence to God and assent to his truth, Christian faith differs from our faith in any human person. It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says. It would be futile and false to place such faith in a creature. (CCC 150)

...Faith is a gift of God, a supernatural virtue infused by him. "Before this faith can be exercised, man must have the grace of God to move and assist him; he must have the interior help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and converts it to God, who opens the eyes of the mind and 'makes it easy for all to accept and believe the truth'" (*Dei Verbum* 5). (CCC 153)

"Believing" is an ecclesial act. The Church's faith precede, engenders, support, and nourishes our faith. The Church is the mother of all believers... (CCC 181)

St. Irenaeus wrote: "We guard with care the faith that we have received from the Church, for without ceasing, under the action of God's Spirit, this deposit of great price, as if in an excellent vessel, is constantly being renewed and causes the very vessel that contains it to be renewed", *Adv. haeres.* 3, 24, 1. (CCC 175)

Questions for discussion:

- What difficulties you find to share and live your faith in your workplace, in the street, in your political options, in your social and public relations?
- How do you understand your faith as your response to God that created and gave you life?
- Who have been roles models of men and women of faith to you? Why have them stand out in your opinion and impressed your thoughts and actions?, What can you do to increase your faith?
- When the father that brings to Jesus his son possessed by a mute spirit, the Lord asked him if he has faith, the man cried out "I do believe, help my unbelief!" (Mk 9:14-29). How would you ask God to help you to care and renew the faith that you have received?
- At Mass end, the celebrant or deacon invites the faithful to go out and share with everyone the peace and joy of our faith. How do you share the faith that you receive during the Eucharistic celebration with others? With whom you share your faith?

Further reading: Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 142-184

