

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Homily Outline

We need to know Jesus and what He has done for us so that we will never deny Him or drift away from His Church.

Introduction

What does it mean to hand on the faith? What exactly are we talking about?

CCC 425 The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ: "We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." And they invite people of every era to enter into the joy of their communion with Christ:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life - the life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life which was with the Father and was made manifest to us (*in Jesus of Nazareth*) - that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you may have fellowship with us; and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing this that our joy may be complete. – 1 John 1:1-4

And so, our first step in handing on the faith is to introduce people to ...

1. The Story of the Martyrdom of St. Polycarp

"Swear," urged the Proconsul, "reproach Christ, and I will set you free."

"86 years have I have served Him and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?"

What does it mean to be a Christian?

CCC 463 Belief in the true Incarnation of the Son of God is the distinctive sign of Christian faith

"Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." – Deus Caritas Est. Pope Benedict XVI

2. We need to rediscover Jesus, be amazed by Him, what he said and did, and that starts with understanding who He is:

Jesus is the fulfillment of the law

DO NOT THINK THAT I HAVE COME TO ABOLISH THE LAW OR THE PROPHETS.

I HAVE COME NOT TO ABOLISH BUT TO FULFILL.

He is the supreme lawgiver – the True Authority:

"YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID TO YOUR ANCESTORS,

YOU SHALL NOT KILL; AND WHOEVER KILLS WILL BE LIABLE TO JUDGMENT.

BUT I SAY TO YOU...

He forgives sins.

Luke 5:20-21

“AS FOR YOU, YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN.” THEN THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES BEGAN TO ASK THEMSELVES, “WHO IS THIS WHO SPEAKS BLASPHEMIES? WHO BUT GOD ALONE CAN FORGIVE SINS?”

In the end, He will judge the world:

Matthew 28:31-33

WHEN THE SON OF MAN COMES IN HIS GLORY, AND ALL THE ANGELS WITH HIM, HE WILL SIT UPON HIS GLORIOUS THRONE, AND ALL THE NATIONS WILL BE ASSEMBLED BEFORE HIM. AND HE WILL SEPARATE THEM ONE FROM ANOTHER, AS A SHEPHERD SEPARATES THE SHEEP FROM THE GOATS.

Ultimately, and most importantly, He is God:

John 8:58-59

JESUS SAID TO THEM, “AMEN, AMEN, I SAY TO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM CAME TO BE, I AM.” SO THEY PICKED UP STONES TO THROW AT HIM; BUT JESUS HID AND WENT OUT OF THE TEMPLE AREA.

As God, Jesus reveals the Face of our Heavenly Father:

John 14:8-9

PHILIP SAID TO HIM, “MASTER, SHOW US THE FATHER, AND THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR US.” JESUS SAID TO HIM, “HAVE I BEEN WITH YOU FOR SO LONG A TIME AND YOU STILL DO NOT KNOW ME, PHILIP? WHOEVER HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER.”

The whole thing is about Him and following Him:

Matthew 10:37-38

WHOEVER LOVES FATHER OR MOTHER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME, AND WHOEVER LOVES SON OR DAUGHTER MORE THAN ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME; AND WHOEVER DOES NOT TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW AFTER ME IS NOT WORTHY OF ME.

And he can say,

John 14:6

“I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.”

3. Even with all that – he wants to be friends with us

In some ways, most amazing of all:

John 15:15

I NO LONGER CALL YOU SLAVES, BECAUSE A SLAVE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT HIS MASTER IS DOING. I HAVE CALLED YOU FRIENDS, BECAUSE I HAVE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING I HAVE HEARD FROM MY FATHER.

Conclusion

For human beings, then it comes down to this, as Jesus says:

Matthew 12:30

“WHOEVER IS NOT WITH ME IS AGAINST ME.”

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