

Covenant Life

- Our next in-person Gathering will be next Sunday, August 14th at 4pm continuing the pattern of meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.
- Recommitting to our [covenant](#) is our 2022 priority and the coordinators are sharing about it. Please take time to listen to the sharings at the bottom of our homepage: GodsDelight.org.
- The Catholic Diocese of Dallas is having its next Diocesan Synod Listening Sessions with the Bishop entitled "Catholic Social & Moral Teaching & the Church in the World" on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 2-5 pm, at Bishop Lynch High School. Click [here](#) to register.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), and read the Word Gift summary [here](#) or the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

The second reading today is from one of my favorite chapters in the bible. It is [Hebrews Chapter 11](#) where the author addresses faith, explaining it as "*the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.*" This is not new, we all know the value and importance of faith. What the Lord has been speaking to me about it recently is not only having it but really acting upon it.

I am someone that learns from others. I have never been afraid to watch and learn from the successes and failures of those around me. This is yet another reason I have so enjoyed the fellowship of you, my sisters and brothers in Community. Your witness and example are inspiring. Back to faith. When I look around any see folks serving the poor, sharing their faith story, volunteering at a local charity, working for a non-profit at half what they could make elsewhere...I am inspired. I think this is what faith is about. Faith is not just believing in God but having the courage to act on it day after day.

The second reading is by necessity a short reading in order to fit into the mass but I ask you to consider reading the entire chapter. As you do you will read of the great faith, put into practice by so many that have come before it...witnesses and examples of those who believed and lived their belief.

Two of my favorite verses in the entire bible are the last two verses of the chapter, verses 39 and 40: *"Yet despite the fact that all of these were approved because of their faith, they did not obtain what had been promised. God had made a better plan, a plan which included us. Without us, they were not to be made perfect."* Here I used the translation from my New American bible because of the clarity with which it explains God's plan that, despite all the saints and holy men and women who have proceeded us...God is not done. His plan includes us!!

This is so very clear and so very humbling. The God of the Universe has a plan that includes us...you and me! This is something that cannot be overlooked or ignored.

God I want to give my live more fully to You and live for You. Show me the way. Lord, I believe, help my unbelief. Give me the courage to always stand for You. Give me the courage to witness for You. Give me the courage to trust You and focus my attention on You.

I end this short exhortation with the first verse and a half of chapter 12 that immediately follows this powerful word of God's plan including us: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith."* What more can I add? Not only do we have the cloud of witnesses referred to in this chapter but we have so many from our Community who have joined the saint and angels in praising the Lord continuously. Let us take these words to heart today and rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus!

Let us pray. "Jesus, I fix my gaze upon You asking for Your grace to grow my faith. I desire not only to grow in faith but also to grow in my response to faith. Help me to rid my life of every burden, every sin that holds me back so that I can persevere in living the life You have called me to. I know that as long as I fix my gaze upon You, I will never sink or fail or be disappointed. I love you. Amen."

God Bless,

David