**19th Sunday C - 2019. Trust and loyalty?**

For Love and Hope to be fruitful, they depend upon a trust inspired by Faith. We need to be able to trust people and they need to be able to trust us - for a relationship to work. **YET**, like the Holy Trinity, Faith, Hope and Love are three sides of a triangle - integrally related - but different. We find it easier to focus on one at a time. Assumptionists have a very simple understanding of Faith which is summarised in our belief that ***God reigns in our hearts and in the world around us.*** Too easy you might say and you are correct. It is too easy. All we have to do is believe and accept it. How else would God trust us to be disciples of Good News, to care for the poor, the marginalised, the disenfranchised, and those in need, if not because God is deeply embedded in our lives? By placing our trust in God – by faith - and being loyal to God’s trust in us, God is able to work wonders and miracles through us. **A little girl and her father** were crossing a bridge. The father was frightened for the safety of his little daughter. *‘Sweetheart,”* he said, *“please hold my hand so that you won’t fall into the river.’* The little girl said, *‘No, Dad. You hold my hand.’* *‘What’s the difference?’* Asked the puzzled father. *‘There’s a big difference,’* replied the little girl. *‘If I hold your hand and something happens to me, chances are that I may let go of your hand. But if you hold my hand, I know for sure that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go.’*

Ronald Rolheiser believes that we should prepare for our meeting with the Lord – *being ready* - by **living more fully NOW.** We should work at loving more deeply, less discriminately, more affectionately, and more gratefully - **NOW**. So go and tell those who are close to you that you love them, and death will never catch you out like a thief in the night**..**

**Our hope** for the future is that everything will be restored in Christ and that there will be lasting peace, that all people will live in harmony and be able to forgive past errors however harmful they have been. It is this hope that makes the present so important. We live the present believing, quite rightly, that, how we live and fulfil our mission **now** contributes to the realisation of this future hope, even though, like Abraham, it will not happen in our life time. Faith motivates and inspires us to fulfil our mission. **Isn’t this** why we believe in the real presence. That Christ is here with us and, in the eucharist, gives himself completely to us, so as to live within us **now**. **A chap in an airplane** was informed that the plane was going to experience some pretty bad turbulence and, with every new announcement, the passengers became increasingly agitated and worried. The subsequent turbulence was over and above terrible. The plan buffeted its way through thunder & lightning that was seriously frightening. It was flung around like a shuttlecock. It would then drop hundreds of feet in an air pocket. Amidst all this, the chap noticed a little girl on her own who was reading a book with her legs drawn up on the seat who seemed quite unperturbed by what was happening. At times she would close her eyes for a while before continuing to read. When the plane finally landed, in one piece, the chap went up to the little girl and asked why she had not been frightened like the rest of the passengers. She said, ***“Oh, I knew we would be all right because my Dad is the pilot and he’s taking me home!”***

This kind of trust, this kind of belief, doesn’t change the world. What is does is change the way we see that world. It inspires a belief and a trust that God will really see things right. Visiting a lonely person can lift them from the sadness of loneliness to feeling valued - strengthening their belief that there are good people around. A smile, a welcome, a handshake can change a person’s day. **And** you won’t do this out of a sense of duty or in a desire to be ***ready!*** You will do it because you will want to share the joy of Christ’s presence within you. So, when you come to that final meeting, Jesus will not have much opportunity to act as judge because he won’t be able to stop you telling him about all the good you have done in your life!!

**Mother Teresa**

Life is an Opportunity, benefit from it.  
Life is Beauty, admire it.  
Life is a Dream, realize it.  
Life is a Challenge, meet it.  
Life is Duty, complete it.  
Life is a Game, play it.  
Life is a Promise, fulfil it.  
Life is Sorrow, overcome it.  
Life is a Song, sing it.  
Life is a Struggle, accept it.  
Life is a Tragedy, confront it.  
Life is an Adventure, dare it.  
Life is Bliss, taste it.  
Life is Costly, care for it.  
Life is Wealth, keep it.  
Life is Love, enjoy it.  
Life is Mystery, know it.  
Life is Luck, make it.  
Life is too Precious, do not destroy it.  
Life is Life, fight for it.