



**Faith, the Supreme call**

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# Faith

## The Supreme Call

*“But sanctify the Lord Christ in your hearts, being ready always to satisfy every one that asketh you a reason of that hope which is in you.”* | Peter 3:15.

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict the 16<sup>th</sup> has declared this year to be the year of Faith. And it is vital for us to recognize that this is not just a mere invitation for each one of us to embrace a life of conversion. It is more than that, it is an authentic summon to an authentic Faith-revival, where each and every one of us obtains the desire to say;

***here i am Lord**, reaffirming my commitment to worship and serve you.*

A Faith-revival is nothing less than the act of reawakening Faith, which may have been dormant. A renewal of commitment by which we may declare our desire to claim our place at the Banquet Table. Yes, claim our place! Which is to say; that by virtue of our Baptism, we have the responsibility to seek the knowledge of Faith, to apply that knowledge in our daily lives, and to preserve it. However, each and every one of us must be willing to say; it must begin first in me. Each and every one of us must have the genuine desire to say; yes Lord, Your servant is here to do Your Will.

It must be so, how else can any of us bear-out our conviction to such an authentic summon, unless, each and every one of us seek Faith that inflames in us the desire to reaffirm our commitment to worship and serve Him. It must be so, it must be, how else any of us can stand true witness to The Lord our God, unless we first, by Faith, witness the true conversion in our own heart. Which is the extension of the ONE Supreme commission of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself when He said- *“come, and follow me..”* as we see in *“Mark 1:17”*, which aroused in His Disciples the aspiration to faithfully follow Him; profess His Gospel even unto martyrdom.

### If you ask; what is Faith, and why Faith?

Faith is the unquestioning belief in God. It is a virtue by which we are transformed and are made capable to hear His voice, and grow conscious of His presence in us. A virtue by which, other virtues are manifested in us. The Catechism of our Holy Mother Church teaches us in [“CCC1814”](#):

Faith is the theological virtue by which we believe in God and believe all that he has said and revealed to us, and that Holy Church proposes for our belief, because he is truth itself. By faith "man freely commits his entire self to God." For this reason the believer seeks to know and do God's will. "The righteous shall live by faith." Living faith "works through charity."

Faith is the absolute belief in God. It is the most precious gift God gives man. It is the virtue by which we are transformed and are made capable to hear His voice, and grow conscious of His presence in us.

*“He that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood abideth in me: and I in him.”* John 6:57.

For by Grace, we grow conscious of Him, and by Grace, we live in-light of Him, in light of His Gospel. By Grace, we obtain great merits before God. We become advocates of Faith, and become fit to share our Faith through loving, giving, and forgiving unconditionally. Even more so, by Grace, we are empowered to resist the world’s enticements to love less and to give only when it profits us, and forgive, but with reservations.

*“<sup>18</sup> This precept, I commend to thee, O son Timothy: according to the prophecies going before on thee, that thou war in them a good warfare, <sup>19</sup> Having faith and a good conscience, which some rejecting have made shipwreck concerning the faith.”*

1 Timothy 1:18-19

If St. Paul is writing to us today as he did to Timothy back then, he would indeed point out to us the many fronts we must guard, and to face them no matter the battles. Nevertheless, no matter the age or place, our battles have been for the sake of preserving our Faith, hence, we ought to face them in spite of the political correctness we are bound by today. For the world continues its war against man’s dignity, the gift God gave man from the beginning of time. It continues its attempts to substitute our God-given free will, by the fallible notion of “free choice”. But is it really free? If so, why is humanity growing less humanitarian, but more constraint by self-centered ideology. How is it that the constraints to our freedom to worship are growing more dominant. How is it that the poverty in these “free choices” have infected the very fabric of society with plagues and senseless death.

St. Peter summoned us to sanctify Christ in our hearts. To be ready to share our Faith charitably. To live, grow, and persevere, in Faith, until the end. But we can only do so by Faith. For by Grace, we are given the nourishment, through the Word of God, to Love and Hope. Hence, by Grace, we must come in humility and beg The Lord to increase our Faith in our Church, His Church, The One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.

CCC866 : The Church is ONE: she acknowledges one Lord, confesses one faith, is born of one Baptism, forms only one Body, is given life by the one Spirit, for the sake of one hope, at whose fulfillment all divisions will be overcome.

CCC867: The Church is HOLY: the Most Holy God is her author; Christ, her bridegroom, gave himself up to make her holy; the Spirit of holiness gives her life. Since she still includes sinners, she is "the sinless one made up of sinners." Her holiness shines in the saints; in Mary she is already all-holy.

CCC868: The Church is CATHOLIC: she proclaims the fullness of the faith. She bears in herself and administers the totality of the means of salvation. She is sent out to all peoples. She speaks to all men. She encompasses all times. She is "missionary of her very nature".

CCC869: The Church is APOSTOLIC. She is built on a lasting foundation: "the twelve apostles of the Lamb". She is indestructible. She is upheld infallibly in the truth: Christ governs her through Peter and the other apostles, who are present in their successors, the Pope and the college of bishops.

## And why Faith?

Well, because the world is full of death, and it has always been at war with itself. Man lost his peace with God, hence he can never be at peace with himself, and consequently, he cannot be at peace with others. Faith in God gives man peace, peace only God can give. Faith leads us to God, Jesus teaches us that He is the way, “ *<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith to him: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father, but by me.* ” John 14:6.

In this broken world, we need Faith to lead us to The Light, to Christ our Savior, “ *<sup>2</sup> Again therefore, Jesus spoke to: them, saying: I am the light of the world. He that followeth me walketh not in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*”, John 8:12. For Faith illuminates in our hearts the Light of Christ, casting out the darkness our sins allow to seep in; we overcome fear. Faith casts out fear, as light casts out darkness. Faith gives a reason to Hope, we become content with our suffering in this life, no matter the circumstances, only for the Hope that we may share eternity with Him. And this Hope inspires us to evangelize and to share our Faith with affection, and we ourselves become so sought after; because of our infectious passion-based advocacy to our Christ and His Cross, for only then will our life be a testimony of Faith-revival, preaching life to be aspired.

St. Augustine of Hippo teaches us that Faith is to believe what we do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

Our One Holy catholic and Apostolic Church teaches us:

CCC176: Faith is a personal adherence of the whole man to God who reveals himself. It involves an assent of the intellect and will to the self-revelation God has made through his deeds and words.

CCC177: "To believe" has thus a twofold reference: to the person, and to the truth: to the truth, by trust in the person who bears witness to it.

CCC178: We must believe in no one but God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

CCC179: Faith is a supernatural gift from God. In order to believe, man needs the interior helps of the Holy Spirit.

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