

Fr. Canisius' Reflection

for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is good to be back home with you this weekend. I had a wonderful experience. It was truly an immersion journey. I was able to celebrate Masses in Spanish at various local churches in Guatemala. What a nation of faith and dedication to the Eucharist. I was very much moved by their love for the Lord. The National Eucharistic Revival is underway and is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery. *Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist.*

Faith requires patience, perseverance, and preparedness. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews defines faith as *the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of things not seen*. He cites Abraham, "Our Father in Faith," as the preeminent example. When God told Abraham to do anything, he did it, without question, comment, or delay. This included leaving his home, never to come back again; waiting on the Lord to make him and Sarah parents even though they were well beyond child-bearing years; and the willingness to sacrifice his son to God, knowing that God's ways are above his own. Abraham was patient. Abraham persevered. Abraham was prepared.

These are all traits Jesus desired for his Apostles and disciples, telling them, *for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come*. We must be patient when waiting on the Lord to answer prayer. Like Abraham, we must persevere in listening for God and doing what he asks of us. Like Jesus, we must be prepared for the hour, making sure we are found busy doing the master's bidding when he returns for us. Much is expected of us, in accordance with what we have been given, and those expectations are carried out within a vibrant life of faith.

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, who have put our hope in you. By God's grace, and with the transforming power of the Eucharist, may we have perfect love and obedience to God's will and have faith in his promises.

Have a blessed week!

Fr. Canisius