

From the Deacon's Wife

Have you ever had an “Ah-ha” moment? One of those times you suddenly understand something that you have struggled to grasp? Has it ever happened with your understanding of your faith? My 4-year-old great niece had one recently. She was staying with my sister and brother-in-law (her Nana & Papa) and seemed to be concentrating very hard on something. Then her face lit up and she said “*Papa, I know why there are so many angels! God is so busy taking care of me that He needs someone to take care of everybody else.*” Wow! She may not be right about how God spends all His time, but she was so confident about how much God loves her and cares for her. We should all be so confident! The scriptures tell us that He knows even the number of hairs on our head and He has called us by name.

Unfortunately, even when we know in our heads that God loves us, we can often feel otherwise. We may feel that God is not even listening to our prayers and certainly does not appear to be lifting a single finger to help us. We’ve asked every Saint we can think of to intercede for us, and still we see no relief. When I find myself in such a situation, I can truly identify with Christ’s words from the passion readings: “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?” When I meditate on His passion and the sense of pain and loneliness He must have felt at that hour, I realize my troubles are minor. But how can you shake the feeling that God doesn’t really care about you?

Sometimes our faith may be the only source of hope we have. We need to trust that even though bad things may happen to us, God is doing everything He can to bring some good out each situation we face. Like a good parent, He knows that sometimes we ask for things which may not be good for us. Sometimes He is just telling us “not now” or “I have something better in mind.” One of my favorite quotes is from the House of Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne: “Just as there comes a sunbeam into every cottage window, so too comes a love beam of God’s care and affection for every separate need.” I try to imagine feeling the warmth of that sunbeam. I tell myself that even if I don’t understand why God is not giving me what I ask, I will trust that He does know what is best for me. I need to summon the courage to say “not my will, but Thy will be done.”

It is true that wisdom often comes “out of the mouths of babes” – just like my great niece. **Be humble enough to learn from little children.** And with child-like faith, trust that God loves you and cares for you more than you can know. He will not abandon you nor leave you an orphan. He has promised to be with you “all days, even until the end of time.”

May God bless you during all your personal passions and grant you redemption this Easter.

NOTE: Copies of past “Pastor’s Letter” or “From the Deacon’s Wife” can be found at: <http://www.holynamemaha.org> (Holy Name’s official website) then click on Parish and then on Parish Bulletins.