



Year C – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time: Increase our Faith

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Luke 17:5-10** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 10/2/2022, 10/5/2025, 10/8/2028

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer: *Heavenly Father, You have so much YOU desire to accomplish through us. Allow us to let go of our designs and will. May our faith and trust in You allow us to get out of Your way. Help us to be a conduit of Your grace and love. Amen.*

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Is there a particular word or phrase that strikes you in today's reading?

YouTube Video: How to Question Your Faith Well with Fr. Schmitz (10:19 min)- <https://youtu.be/IHhucN1JIZo>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Were you ever the smart aleck type of student who asked too many questions and tried to get the teacher off track? Be honest.
3. Would you say you are a questioning type of person or do you more easily trust and accept answers given? Why do you think you are that way?
4. When Fr. Mike is talking about questions about faith, he mentioned three specific questions we may wrestle with that are healthy:
 - a. What does the Church actually teach?
 - b. Why does the Church teach that?
 - c. How can I live what the Church teaches?
 - d. Have you struggled with some of these same questions? What's a recent topic or issue you have struggled with? Did you come to any resolution?
5. Fr. Mike shares that so many in our Churches have a 2-5th grade level understanding of faith. Does this seem fair to you? Why or why not? What has been your experience?
6. Fr. Mike makes an important distinction between questioning as a difficulty versus a doubt. Do you find this distinction helpful? How does this change the way you view the difficulties you and others might experience?
7. What do you think God might be calling you to do/think/pray through this video today?

Session Challenge:

- Prayerfully reflect and write down any difficulties or doubts you may have about any Church teaching. Ask God to help guide you in trust on how to best find answers to your difficulties or doubts. Specifically, consider what God may be inviting you to concretely do now to learn about, understand, embrace, and/or live the Church's teaching(s) that you struggle with.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *We thank You, Lord, for the gift of faith. We beg for Your grace and help to increase our faith. Help us to clearly see WHAT You have revealed to us. Help us to better understand WHY seeking guidance through Your Church is Your will. Help us fully depend on Your grace to show us HOW we can live what You teach through the Church. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4;** Sunday Reading 2: **2 Tm 1:6-8.13-14**