

October 20, 2019

ACTION – Moving Forward

First Reading ~ James 2:14-20,26

My dear siblings, what good is it if you say you have faith but don't practice it by your action? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see someone who is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and you say, "Go in peace, be warm and be filled!" – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? Faith and belief alone, unaccompanied by action, is without life.

Some of you will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith *by* my actions. You say you have faith, for you believe there is one God. Well and good. Even demons believe that and tremble. Can't you see, o senseless one, that faith without action is without use? Just as the body without spirit is dead, so faith without action is without life.

Second Reading

~ adapted from Rachel Held Evans in "Searching for Sunday"

The difference between the clergy and the laity is often perceived as more vast than it actually is, which leads to all sorts of trouble, from unhealthy and unhappy pastors who struggle to manage the weight of the expectations placed upon them, to Christians who miss the full depth of their own faith and calling because they believe that ministry is something that other people do. Alexander Schmemann says, "If there are priests in the Church, it is precisely in order to reveal to each vocation its priestly essence, to make the whole life of all people the liturgy of the Church." Ultimately, all Christians share the same calling. According to the apostle Peter, we are "priests invited to show others the goodness of God, for God called you out of the night into God's wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9). Whenever we show others the goodness of God, whenever we follow our Teacher by imitating his posture of humble and ready service, our actions are sacred and ministerial. To be called into the priesthood, as all of us are, is to be called to a life of presence, a life of kindness.