

Reflection

Thursday Jan 26, 2023

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Timothy and Titus, the feast is during the liturgical time of year when many of the readings are about discipleship.

Paul in the first reading is praising Timothy for his sincere faith, handed on to him from his grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice. That phrase, "handed on" is how the seeds of faith spread to the next generation. It is good to ask, how are we handing on our faith to the next generation? That is a keen focus for Pope Francis, youth, and **how to share the seeds of faith with them**. He had a synod for them in 2018.

The scriptures are about discipleship, what it means to be a disciple, one who listens and learns, "anyone who has ears ought to hear." A disciple is one who follows, and one who can, as Paul says, can "stir into flame the gift of God that he has (and we have received), that has been handed on to us."

It might be good today, on the feast of those disciples, Timothy and Titus, to recall how the seed of faith was passed on, handed on to us. Was it from a parent, or a grandparent? When I was working with RCIA I often found that people desiring to come into the Church were inspired by their grandmothers. Or the seed of faith might have been passed on by a teacher. How often I recall certain sisters who taught me or just by their being kind, modeled for me a strong faith, and thus were able to stir into flame the gift of faith that God had given me.

These are some of God's marvelous deeds.

Paul also reminds us of what that gift includes: not a spirit of cowardice, but rather the gift of power, love and self-control. These are gifts we were given. But along with these gifts he reminds us of our daily cross that we need to pick up: "Bear your share of hardships for the Gospel with strength that comes from God." Yes, there will be hardships, conflicts, difficult relationships, ill health...but God gives us strength. We need to ponder these gifts and ask God for the strength to say yes to them, accept the strength being given and be a better disciple.

The Gospel also reminds us that "the WORD is a lamp to my feet."

Yes, the Word, is a lamp on our spiritual journey, a light on our path. We are blessed that we can daily pray over, ponder scripture message, and ask: is there any Word for me today?

In the Gospel Jesus instructs his disciples: "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bushel basket, hidden?" No, the lamp which is Christ needs to be placed where it can be seen and give light. How can I do that today? Let the light of Christ shine through me?

Anyone who has ears to hear ought to hear. We need to listen to the Word and ponder it and allow it to light our path.

Paul may be saying to us: May God bless you with every grace and blessing of the Spirit and make us bear hardship in peace thru Jesus, our brother.

Help us, O God, to keep our commitment to you alive and active and to cherish special moments when we have experienced your marvelous deeds to us.