

FROM THE PASTOR

My dear brothers and sisters,

In the Gospel this weekend, Jesus is teaching His disciples, preparing them for scandal of the Cross. He says to them that He is going to be handed over and killed, but He also shares with them the power of the resurrection. They just don't understand Him, though, and they're afraid to ask Him about it. Is it because they were just speaking about who was the greatest, and they were ashamed? Maybe they knew in their hearts that He was going to tell them that they had to be the servants of all, not the lords of all, and they didn't want to hear it.

Does this ever happen to you? Do you ever struggle with some Truth of Faith? I think, really, the only people who do not struggle at some point with the Truths of Faith are the ones that don't have Faith. For the rest of us, we have to struggle with understanding: "I don't get it, it doesn't make any sense!" The disciples were afraid to ask Jesus about what He said. I wonder... there are times we are afraid to find out more about our Faith. Sometimes we might think there really is no answer, and we're afraid to find out there is only uncertainty and darkness. Many other times it might be that we are afraid that we might find out our Faith is right!

A family friend used to tell my parents that he would never go on a Cursillo weekend. Why? Because he said that if he went, he would have to give up his boat. Now, for those of you unfamiliar with Cursillo, you should know that there is nothing in the Cursillo weekend that says you can't have a boat! What was he afraid of? Cursillo is a weekend designed to help people come into a living relationship with Christ – to fall in love with Him. Our friend didn't understand that if he fell in love with Jesus, it wouldn't be that he would grudgingly have to give up his boat, but that he might reevaluate his priorities; and *out of love* would willingly give up his boat. He couldn't handle that, he was afraid that there might be more to life than what he was making of it and it would mean change.

When our Faith tells us something we struggle with, that we're afraid to ask about, is it because we're afraid that we might have to give up something we really, really enjoy? Are we willing to seek out the Truth, and let it form us? St. James tells us that we are at war in our members because we are ruled by our passions. St. Augustine struggled with this, even in his prayer – "Lord, give me chastity and continence ... but not yet"!!! When we struggle to give up something which is bad (because we like it too much) we need to turn to Jesus and ask Him to transform our desires, our passions. Are we willing to do this? If we're entrenched in the world's way of thinking this can be hard. "What do you mean that I can't use artificial contraception? God doesn't know what He's talking about!" "What do you mean pornography is wrong, even in marriage?" What do you mean I can't play solitaire at work?" Are we willing to seek out the Truth and let Jesus change our hearts?

Jesus longs to transform our out-of-control passions so that we can love Him. He will help us to change, not just our external actions, but even our desires. He can remake us from the inside out. Will we ask Him, though? Or will we be too afraid?