

Faith of Abraham

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the second Sunday of Lent year A, the Church invites us to follow the example of Abraham who is called the “Father of Faith”. In the first reading today, we see that God calls Abraham: “The LORD said to Abram: ‘Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you’” (Genesis 12:1). Indeed, Abraham leaves his homeland at the age of 75 to follow God’s call, but he does not know where he is going to choose a land for his family to live.

In the face of that invitation from God, I think that Abraham is very hesitant to leave his peaceful homeland to move to a new land where he has never been and does not know. He is so worried because he doesn’t know what his future, his life, and his family will be like. However, Abraham trusts in God and goes out and follows God’s call, Saint Paul also said, “by faith, Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go” (Heb 11:8). We see that the faith of Abraham is so strong, he completely trusts in God. God chooses each person, each family, each community, and each parish in His own ways. He called, He chose, but the problem is whether we respond to His call and dare to go out to His will?



If we listen and trust in God, He will grant us what we need as God grants to Abraham: “I (God) will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing” (Gen 12:2). In our journey of faith, sometimes our faith has been challenging, but we look at Abraham’s faith which is to believe in God. When Abraham believed in God and followed God, his life completely changed. He no longer lived for himself, but he lived for God, for other people in God. As we are living in the holy season of Lent, the Church invites us to follow the prophet Isaiah: “Sharing your bread with the hungry, sheltering the oppressed and the homeless; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own” (Isaiah 58:7).