

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 2, 2022

- ***Excerpt from archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist
October 4, 1998***

Faith! A simple word. Yet believe it or not this word has caused endless controversies over the years.

Faith can lead us to terrible problems. If we have “blind faith” and we trust people or creeds without questioning the truth of the object of our faith, we are really quite foolish.

For example, if faith means “trust”, and we trust in a “confidence” man we can become the victim of a scam. We can suffer serious loss of our possessions and perhaps even our lives.

To be valid, faith must have a basis in reality. That is why time and time again I have told our Catholics that the Church does not expect you to “leave your brains at the door of the church.”

The Catholic Church has always had a two fold test for our beliefs. One is theological. If the Church teaches something, we ask “is it something that has some basis in reality?” For example, we believe in Jesus as Second

Person of the Blessed Trinity. But if Jesus had not truly risen from the dead, as Saint Paul says, “we would indeed be the saddest and most foolish of people.

Secondly, our faith must be in accord with reason. We can never expect our people to obey any law unless there is a substantial and real reason for it. That is why the Catholic Church often stands alone in the world. We follow only truth, not merely human options.

So when we say, “Credo,” “I believe” each Sunday, it is not a mere word. Your faith has historical reason behind it. We respect your God-given intelligence. Praise God!

常年期第二十七主日 (10/2/2022)

- *摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1998 年 10 月 4 日*

信! 这个简单的字, 不论你是否相信, 多少年来一直引发无数的争议。

信可以让我们陷入巨大的麻烦。如果我们的信是盲目的, 盲目信任他人, 或相信某信条而不加以探寻其真实性, 那我们真的就很愚蠢。

如果信意味着信赖, 例如, 我们相信某个“自信”满满的人, 我们就会成为某骗局的受害者, 不仅要承受严重的财产损失, 甚至还搭上性命。

更确切地说吧，信必须要有事实的基础，这就是为什么我不厌其烦地告诉我们天主教的信友们：教会不期望你们进堂时“把自己的大脑留在教堂的大门口”。

天主教会总是对我们的信仰有一个双重的检验，第一个是神学。如果教会教导我们有关什么的话，我们会问：“那事实的基础是什么”？比如说，在教会的教导中耶稣是三位一体中的第二位，事实是：如果耶稣没有从死者中真的复活，那我们就如圣保禄宗徒说的那样，不仅是最可怜的，也是最愚蠢的。

第二，我们信仰要依据理性判断。我们从不期望民众去服从某项法律，除非有实实在在的原因要服从它。这就是为什么天主教会经常独立于世界，因为我们只追随真理，而不是仅限于人的选择。

所以每个主日我们宣读我们的信义“我信”时，“信”不单单只是一个字，因为你的“信”（信仰）背后有历史的事实。我们尊重天主赋予你的智慧。赞美主！