

# From the Pastor

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As we officially conclude Christmas Season, we continue to marvel at the faithfulness of God. He fulfilled His promises. He gave us His Son so through Him we may attain our salvation - the right way of living this life and obtain life eternal.

Our Catechism says: "Knowing that God is faithful is the foundation of our whole spiritual life. Believing in God, the only One, and loving Him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life... It means trusting God in every circumstance, even in adversity. (*Catechism #222 and 227*)

Let me remind you of an old story about of the rock climber.

This climber was in the mountains, climbing alone (a bad idea, of course). And it was getting late. The sun had just gone down, and the temperature was dropping fast. He was descending a section of rock that was inclined beyond the vertical, like the inside of a steep roof. He was deep in the shadows of cliffs. Suddenly, he slipped, lost his grip, and did a free fall of about forty feet before his rope caught on the last stay he had driven into the rock. He was hanging like a spider on a strand of web. He tried to climb up the rope, but at the end of the long day, he just didn't have the strength. He was hanging there in the void. It was dark. It was cold. He had nowhere to turn.

So even though he wasn't a church-going man, he said a prayer: "God, if you're up there, please help me." Much to his surprise, he heard an answer. It said, "Cut your rope." He was surprised but overjoyed to get an answer, but he didn't like the answer he got. He looked below him. Only darkness. It was getting colder. He prayed again, "God, if that's really you, please help me." Again he heard an answer, "It really is me. Cut your rope. Trust me." He looked down again. It was getting colder. He couldn't understand why God wanted him to cut his only support. He took out his knife. But he just couldn't get himself to cut the rope. The next morning in the bright sunlight, a group of rock climbers found him hanging from his rope, frozen to death, just several feet above the ground.

So many times we are at the end of our rope and we need the help of someone we can trust - someone who is faithful, like God. He won't always explain everything to us, because we simply can't understand it all - our eyesight is limited. But when we hear his voice in our conscience, we know that the one who is all-good and all-powerful is faithfully guiding us, as he guided the Wise Men, and he won't leave us hanging - if we believe in him.

*"Let nothing trouble you / Let nothing frighten you  
Everything passes / God never changes  
Patience / Obtains all  
Whoever has God / Wants for nothing  
God alone is enough."  
(Prayer of St. Teresa of Jesus)*

*+ Father Roger*