



## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

IT IS CHRIST WHOM WE PROCLAIM, ADMONISHING EVERYONE AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE PERFECT IN CHRIST — Colossians 1:28b  
July 21, 2013

### LISTEN

The first reading tells of the “annunciation” of the birth of Isaac. It is profoundly mysterious, beginning with the appearance of the “three men.” This reading illustrates God’s active role in our history. The second reading treats a universal experience—suffering. Paul sees suffering as the mark of discipleship. He finds joy in the suffering he endures because it is for the sake of the church. Through his preaching he hopes all people will come to accept Christ. The Gospel paints a lovely picture of Jesus at rest among his friends. Luke has placed the incident right after the parable of the Good Samaritan. But lest “activism” be seen as the only path, we now hear Jesus’ call to sit quietly and listen to the word of God. We have to be like both of the sisters. Even in our harried and noisy world, there is an insistent call to sit back quietly and listen to Jesus.

### R.C.I.A.

**Our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) classes have begun...held every Sunday, after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. If you have already spoken with Sister Sharon, please plan to attend this first class inside the Rectory at approximately 11:30a.m. If you have not yet spoken with Sister Sharon, please call her to find out how you can begin your faith journey!**

### POPE FRANCIS’ FIRST ENCYCLICAL

### THE LIGHT OF FAITH

—“*Lumen Fidei*” (“The Light of Faith”), the first encyclical of Pope Francis, says that faith is like a light illuminating all of human existence.

The encyclical, begun by Pope Benedict XVI, his successor Pope Francis said, was released by the Vatican July 5. Dated June 29, the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, “*Lumen Fidei*,” considers the role of faith from the days of Abraham until modern times. “The light of faith is unique, since it is capable of illuminating every aspect of human existence,” the Pope said. “A light this powerful cannot come from ourselves but from a more primordial source: in a word, it must come from God.” Faith heralds the transforming power of belief in Jesus, said Pope Francis. “Faith does not merely gaze at Jesus, but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes: it is a participation in his way of seeing,” the pope said. Pope Francis offered his signature down-to-earth comparison. “We trust the architect who builds our home, the pharmacist who gives us medicine for healing, the lawyer who defends us in court,” he said. “We also need somebody trustworthy and knowledgeable where God is concerned. Jesus, the Son of God, is the one who makes God known to us.” Pope Francis noted faith’s impact on the family, especially young people.

“Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives,” Pope Francis said. “It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God’s faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness.” The pope also pointed out that faith provides perspective in the search for truth, so that believers do not fall prey to great totalitarian movements on one side and relativism on the other. He warned of “a massive amnesia in our contemporary world.” “The question of truth is really a question of memory, deep memory, for it deals with something prior to ourselves and can succeed in uniting us in a way that transcends our petty and limited individual consciousness. It is a question about the origin of all that is, in whose light we can glimpse the goal and thus the meaning of our common path,” he said.

He cited faith as a way to unity among peoples. “Faith likewise offers the possibility of forgiveness, which so often demands time and effort, patience and commitment. Forgiveness is possible once we discover that goodness is always prior to and more powerful than evil, and that the word with which God affirms our life is deeper than our every denial. From a purely anthropological standpoint, unity is superior to conflict; rather than avoiding conflict, we need to confront it in an effort to resolve and move beyond it, to make it a link in a chain, as art of a progress toward unity.”

“The Light of Faith”(“*Lumen Fidei*”) is available from USCCB in print (\$6.95) and e-book (\$4.95) editions in English and Spanish. More information on ordering can be found at [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org) or at 1 800-235-8722 to order anytime.

### REFLECTIONS

### THE 17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading:** Genesis 18:20-32 **Second Reading:** Colossians 2:12-14

**Gospel:** Luke 11:1-13

The apostles ask Jesus to teach them to pray as he does and he answers by telling them to call God “Father or ‘abba.’ As humans we can only imagine God’s great love for each of us. Take time each day to reflect on his great love for you and for me--and then realize it is why we must love each other.