

Journey OF Faith

February 7, 2010

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In Word & Deed

Who really makes a difference in our lives? We could create a list and for most of us, the list would be quite impressive. Many people have influenced us, helped us or taught us so that we can succeed. No one does it alone and everyone has something to offer. From the youngest to the oldest, the poorest to richest, we all can make a difference in the lives of others.

This is especially true in the life of the Church. Mary, in particular, has the unique call to be the mother of Jesus. Her acceptance of God's word and her trust in Him have inspired people throughout history to trust in God, to have faith and allow the Holy Spirit to use them to accomplish the work God had in mind.

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All who have faith in Christ and are baptized have an obligation to deepen and broaden the community life of their parishes. Some pastoral roles are specifically defined, filled by priests, deacons, religious or laity. But even these roles exist to enable all parishioners to work toward this building of community.

The Parish: A People, A Mission, A Structure-USCCB

Scripture Readings

Sunday February 7

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11
Lk 5:1-11

Monday February 8

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday February 9

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday February 10

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday February 11

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Mk 7:24-30

Friday February 12

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday February 13

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk 8:1-10

Sunday February 14

Jer 17:5-8/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

FAMILY LIFE:

TO WALK AS ONE

Mitch Albom's book, *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, is a story about a man who dies and on his way to heaven, meets five people who played a significant role in his life. The role they played is not always obvious, so he has to ask some questions to discover how these people influenced his life.

There are many people who influence our lives. Some we have met and others remain in obscurity. Think of the many people over the years who worked for your parish or school, who shaped the company you work for, or planned the community you live in. Think of your teachers, babysitters, coaches and Scout leaders. We all

benefit from those who work for the welfare of others.



It is not always possible to go back and say thanks. We can pray for them and ask the Lord to reward their goodness. We can also pass on the kindness we have received to someone else. What you can't pay back, you can pay forward. Do something good for those who will come after you and encourage them to do the same. Continue the good work that blessed your life by doing some good for others.

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Age is not only
the revealer of
the infinite:
It is the very
means of
penetrating
into it.

Charles Morice



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In Word & Deed

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The Apostles, too, lived lives of faith that converted the world and made disciples of all nations. They did not have much, but what they had, they used to teach and spread the good news.

Each person has a role to play. By word and witness, by work and by

prayer, we preach the Gospel and encourage others to grow in faith and holiness. We may not even be aware of how we influence others, but our example can be powerful and persuasive. In the hands of God, the smallest thing can produce big results.

~James Gaffney