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## Confirmation Class. Lesson No. 1; February 23, 2021 Handout No. 1

Dear Students,

Thank you very much for joining us this Tuesday evening to learn about our Faith and Christ giving us a very specific **MISSION** to be accomplished by each and every single one of us. Today I would like to follow the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of the textbook we use during our Confirmation Prep classes and discuss with you the essence and importance of our FAITH and of what being called PEOPLE of FAITH implies; especially today, at the beginning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> DECADE of the XXI century.

1. Faith is a very broad term. One could give a dictionary - based definition of what FAITH is, and it would read more or less this way:
  - From Latin word FIDE, FIDERE – that stands for TRUST one can say that FAITH is a **CONFIDENCE or TRUST**, especially in Religious Systems;
  - As broad as this term is, in the Roman Catholic Church one's FAITH moves from that CONFIDENCE, TRUST – for example; in Abrahamic Religions that FAITH (Believe) in the EXISTENCE of GOD moves to more a specific action – based BELIEVING; you could see how in Christianity it (that FAITH – movement from just TRUSTING, CONFIDENCE) focuses on the TEACHINGS OF JESUS and on his place as the prophesied (promised) MESSIAH - CHRIST and everything it IMPLIES – and we call it our REVELATION (which is contained in the Sacred Scripture – the BIBLE) and TRADITION (which is carried thru the AGES as a Sacred Tradition of the Church – for instance: Mass, Other Sacraments, teachings, etc.).
2. Therefore, given all readily accessible accounts, one can conclude that in the Catholic Understanding, FAITH is:
  - **GENERALLY** – or **OBJECTIVELY**: is the sum of truths revealed by God in Scripture and tradition and which the Church presents in a brief form in its creeds. (for instance, our Nicene Creed we all profess every Sunday at Mass, a **CREED** that is almost 1700 years old)
  - **PERSONALLY** – or more **SUBJECTIVELY**: faith stands for the habit or virtue by which these truths are **IMPLEMENTED** – lived by, exercised by me; personally.

Now, ever since you enter the RELIGIOUS ED Program, either here at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, All Saints School or other respective parishes before you joined us here, you kept learning about the FAITH and its OBJECT – that is GOD – in many ways. One of those ways helped you to STUDY the BIBLE – the Old and New Testament, as it RELATES to us - God's Love, plan, Word, and all His OMNIPOTENT CARE (to us all, as a HUMANITY, and to every single one of us INDIVIDUALLY – as a Child of God Created in the IMAGE and LIKENESS of God).

As you might remember all the way from September to January 2020 during our weekly classes, we tried to once again LOOK DEEPER into the OLD TESTAMENT, and possibly see how those HEBREW (before Jesus) Scriptures (Old Testament) not only RELATE to us the Word of God, God's Love and Care for HIS CREATION, but also how the ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT (Hebrew Scriptures) POINT ON TO – JESUS as the ONE who FULFILLS all the expectations, desires, awaiting and hopes of the PEOPLE (not only Jewish People, but all people) who happened to LIVE BEFORE Jesus' BIRTH.

We call that METHOD of reading and studying a TYPE STUDY of TYPOLOGY – then the EVENTS, PERSONS, FIGURES, and even NARRATIVE in the OLD (in this case – in the OLD TESTAMENT) – PRE – FIGURE, POINT onto, FORESHADOW, FORTELL, the NEW – in our case – Jesus Christ and His New TESTAMENT. (specific examples)

Then, after realizing that JESUS CHRIST did not come to ABOLISH (erase, eradicate, or cancel) The OLD TESTAMENT but to FULFILL it, we have begun – and we still do – learn about the ways it was done, and why You and I need to continue it that QUEST; in simple words: to spread, share, preach, make known the great GOOD NEWS of Jesus (the message about His Love, Forgiveness and **REDEMPTION most of all**) and the Good News ABOUT JESUS – which are His GOSPELS (Mk, Matt, Lk, J). That CONTINUES thru YOU and ME; even thou we are maybe less effective workers, preachers, disciples – that the ones who came before us.

The ROOT and the MISSION CLERANCE for our own MISSIONARY JOURNEY begins not only with the MYSTERY OF INCARNATION (remember, we talked about that; it's Christmas – Christ being born in space and time to the Human Race, through a Holy Woman – Our Mother, Mary) but it flows from the **EVENTS OF THE PASCHAL MYSTERY**. (remember what the Paschal Mystery is, right: it's the 3 MOST Holy Days in our Faith, preceded by Palm Sunday).