

Youth Sunday

Be Proud of Being A Christian

Young Friends and dear Christians,

Many of you, young people of today, are tired of listening to empty promises concerning the promotion of human dignity. In fact, you are seriously looking for ways to make these promises come to life. Whatever values or means you recommend are only practical in so far as they are actively present in yourselves, so that those who deal with you may encounter Christ, whether or not they are conscious of this. If they come to know you more deeply, and discover in conversation and friendship the faith you possess, they may themselves be attracted to Christ, and be led to the faith.

You may ask me, is faith in Christ worthwhile? Yes, truly! Faith reaches beyond our mere earthly life, which is extinguishable and is shut off from the beyond. Faith in Christ, places us at the beginning of an immortal life of happiness, of the life of God in us, here and now, and with a pulsating vitality that stretches into an infinite future.

Again you may ask me by faith in Christ alone do we come to enjoy a life in God and attain salvation? We know that faith is undoubtedly necessary, but faith is not enough by itself. Together with faith are entwined grace, the sacrament of baptism which makes us sons of God, the other sacraments, which help us to live as sons of God, with the indwelling in us of the Holy Spirit. Creating us members of the Church, the Holy Spirit can make us good and holy, heirs of heaven. The Blessed Eucharist, the crowning sacrament of sacraments, gives us Jesus Christ Himself. He who sacrificed Himself for us. He who made Himself into the living bread for our souls.

It is a fine thing to be a Christian! Yes, indeed, it is a very beautiful thing! May this idea remain deeply impressed in your mind, in your conscience, forever! Many people have had to suffer for their faithfulness to Christ. They even give up their lives witness of their faith.

A Christian must live according to his faith. It may happen that this attachment to his faith will demand sacrifice - sometimes great sacrifices. But ordinarily, it demands only many little sacrifices made frequently. These sacrifices which may seem at the time to be banal are precious and full of noble and manly vigour. They render life energetic and virtuous. They keep it pure and honest. They always turn it towards love, to the love of God, to the love of other men, to our neighbour, and so on to the love of all human beings, good and bad, near and far.

The fact of our being Christians urges us to care for people of all walks of life. It should drive us to work for peace, peace between classes, peace between nations. Christians under whatever circumstances are expected to promote good, to work for freedom and justice. They should have concern for the weak, the poor, the suffering, the dead and even for their enemies.

When a young Christian truly has Christ as his teacher, he is like a fountain of goodness and love, overflowing on all sides.

Now, you may ask me how we can live up to our Christian faith. My dear young Christians, here is how I would summarize all that I wish to say to you:

Above all, you must perceive that to live your faith, you must not only respond to the dictates of Christ, but also make them rules for your conduct. We should dispose our affairs according to His will. It goes without saying, we must have a great love for Jesus Christ, and try to know Him well, remain united to Him, have great faith and great trust to Him. Moreover, let us be faithful to the Church, pray with her, love her, make her known, and always be ready to bear frank witness to her.

Finally, you must be happy and joyful always, and not remain entangled with matters which discourage you, for the Christian life is really a most beautiful thing. This truth must be deeply imprinted in your mind and heart!

+ Bishop Peter Lei
Vicar Capitular of Hong Kong