

## Homily—11<sup>th</sup> week OT: B-cycle 2015

*“Brothers and sisters we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith and not by sight.”*

We walk by faith and not by sight.

It’s something we hear all the time but what does it mean?

It means we don’t have all the things in our lives explained to us.

We all have strange events, tragic events, occur in our lives and there doesn’t seem to be any reason for it.

Haven’t you ever wanted to say to God when something strange or tragic happens in your life, “what’s up with this? I go to Church. I’m a good person. Why me?”

Were you ever convinced that you were right and God messed up?

Have you ever shouted at God, “WHAT WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU LET THIS HAPPEN?” You know that’s not a bad prayer.

Sometimes prayers said in anger or grief are the most honest prayers.

And the Lord loves honesty.

Sometimes when we refuse to get down on our knees he knocks us on our knees.

Because when we have nothing left to lose, that’s usually when we’re ready to trust.

And that’s what all of this is about. Trust.

That’s why the Lord wants us to walk by faith and not by sight, because that takes trust.

That’s why atheism is on the rise in our culture, because people would rather trust themselves, then trust God.

Back in the 80’s and 90’s the New Age movement boomed, and what amused me was that there was nothing “new” about it.

It was basically just a bunch of ancient pagan religions that were dressed up in modern trappings, but they were very popular, because they all had one common denominator; they offered the illusion of control.

YOU can control your future. YOU can make the world give you whatever you want; wealth, fame, popularity, a significant other, eternity, anything.

Just let us teach you how to tune yourself into the energy of the cosmos, and the cosmos will give you anything you want.

It lasted about twenty years and fizzled out because people were not getting what they wanted from the cosmos.

All they were doing was paying more and more money for seminars and gadgets and cassette tapes that kept promising results and never delivered.

This eventually helped give rise to this new wave of atheism in the country, because as it became more and more apparent that the New Age movement was a sham, people started assuming “well, ALL religion is a sham!”

But even the atheism of today isn't really true atheism. They do believe in a god.

It's just that the god is science, or humanism. We're god. We control life and death.

Now contrary to popular myth, the Church does NOT have anything against science, but we refuse to deify science.

Science exists to serve humankind while respecting the dignity that God made in us.

That's what atheism, paganism, the New Age Movement all have in common; ultimately they all worship the self.

It's a rejection to walk by faith and not by sight. It's a refusal to trust God.

More evidence of this is seen in the world of politics.

The founding fathers of our nation designed the political structure of the nation based on Judeo-Christian values and philosophy, with very strong state governments, because they wanted a government they could trust.

And the only government they could trust was one that was of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Over the years and especially in recent years, as we've seen the nation turn further and further away from Judeo-Christianity we have also seen the Federal Government consolidating more and more power, and state power becoming more limited.

The founding fathers wanted to precisely avoid this because that invites abuse of power.

We've also seen a shift in social philosophy.

In past generations people worked for the common good.

Everyone pitched in to do what was good for society as a whole.

Now individual rights trump the common good, and with that has come a dismantling of trust in all traditional authority figures.

It started in the seventies with politicians, via Richard Nixon and Watergate.  
OK, can't trust politicians anymore. Then it was lawyers in the 80's.  
Judges in the 90's. Priests in the early 2000's, and now most recently police.

One by one, all the traditional authority figures in our nation are getting knocked down.  
Now I don't deny that some people in these positions have abused their authority.  
But does that mean their all bad? You see what's happening?  
When we stop walking by faith, we stop trusting God.  
When we stop trusting God we stop trusting even secular authority.  
Eventually, we stop trusting everyone, and then we have chaos.  
Because love cannot live where there is no trust.

That's why walking by faith is so essential.

The only way we have faith in God is to trust him to run creation, not me.  
We can't love God until we trust him.  
We can't fully love others until we love God first.  
Fully loving God and others is what will bring peace to the world and to our lives.  
But that means sometimes questions in our lives will go unanswered.  
Sometimes tragic things will happen that we cannot explain or prevent.  
And in those times we have to reassure ourselves that God knows what he's doing, even  
if we don't.  
That's how it works. I wish there was an easier way.

My brothers and sisters, pray with me today that we here and our nation will once again walk by  
faith and not by sight.