FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 24

Ages 8+

1. **What parable does Jesus tell in this Sunday's gospel?** Luke 16: 1-13 tells the story of the dishonest steward. **What is a steward?** The steward was in charge of the rich man's wealth. He was supposed to spend wisely and to save or invest to make even more money for the rich man. **Did you hear anything puzzling in this gospel?** When the rich man commended the dishonest steward or when Jesus advises "make friends with dishonest wealth" can be surprising! **What can we take away from the gospel?** Money and wealth are temporary things. Money is a tool, and we must use it to serve God by providing for ourselves or our families. It is not meant to be wasted or worshiped greedily. Money only has meaning here on earth, not in Heaven. Christians must be prudent in their spending, knowing that money does not bring happiness. **What else does Jesus remind us in this gospel?** Jesus tells His disciples "No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Mammon."

2. **Have you heard of St. Padre Pio?** He was a Capuchin priest from Italy. His feast day is September 23rd. **What was so special about Padre Pio?** He desired to give his life to God from a very young age. Legend tells us that when he was young he could see guardian angels! He is also very well known for having the stigmata, the wounds of Christ on his hands and feet. This was incredibly painful for him, but he accepted and bore them out of love for Jesus. The wounds smelled of roses and miraculously never got infected. Padre Pio endured a lot of suffering as his fame grew and people were suspicious of him and accused him for things that were not true. He was even investigated by the Holy Office in Rome. St. Padre Pio was a beloved confessor and spiritual advisor. He devoted himself to the poor and even opened a hospital! Padre Pio says to "pray, hope and do not worry!" St. Padre Pio, pray for us!

3. **What is a relic?** A relic is a piece of a saint's body (a first class relic), an item used or owned by a saint (a second class relic) or something that touched the tomb of a saint (a third class relic). The word relic comes from a Latin word for remains. **What is the purpose of a relic?** We venerate relics because they remind us of the holiness of the saint to which they belong and inspire us in our faith. The Church treasures these items as a reminder of the resurrection. Relics are a witness to us of holiness. **Did you know that Catholic altars contain relics?** In fact, the original altars were the tombs of saints and martyrs. This was a reminder for the faithful to follow the example of Christ and those who went before us.

4. **Apologetics- Sometimes Catholics are challenged about relics. Why do Catholics say that the bones of dead saints can heal people?**! God HAS worked through relics to heal people! God can use natural things for supernatural purposes. Throughout history relics have been known for miraculous healings. **Is that biblical?** In the Old Testament, the prophet Elisha's bones cured a dead man! 2 Kings 13:21 says "But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet.

5. **Catechism- What is the 9th Commandment?** The 9th Commandment is thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife. **What does covet mean?** Covet means to wish to get a thing unjustly. This commandment instructs us to be pure in thought and desire. Another word for purity is chastity.

REVIEW QUESTION: What were Mary's 7 sorrows? The prophecy of Simeon, The Flight into Egypt, The Loss of Jesus for Three Days, The Meeting of Jesus on the way to Calvary, The Crucifixion of Jesus and Jesus Taken Down From the Cross.