

As believers, OUR STRENGTH LIES IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST and not in our abilities or talents. Like Ezekiel from our first reading, St. Paul realizes that no matter what response he receives, he must be bold and courageous in his witness. He must accept, as Jesus pointed out in the Gospel, that a prophet is not always accepted in his native place and that while many will accept the message, many more will reject it.

To be a disciple of Christ, we, too, need to be courageous and faithful in all things, even if it runs contrary to the ways of the world or what is now socially acceptable. This is the first step in true Christian living.

Like the prophets, we are sent into the world and that, like the Apostles, we will be challenged to explain and defend our faith before others. We cannot be believers who sit on the fence or disciples who are lukewarm or half-hearted in our commitment. Trying to reconcile the ways of this world with those of the Gospel will inevitably cause us to have to choose between the two.

Instead, we need to be believers who know of our need for God, and believers who are always growing in our faith and prayer life. It is only when our courage, perseverance and fidelity are united with Christ and his mission that, like Paul and Ezekiel, we can humbly accept our own weaknesses and our need of God's grace and strength. Only then can we stand up more firmly grounded in our faith and in our relationship with Christ.

Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony



Como creyentes, NUESTRA FUERZA RADICA EN NUESTRA RELACIÓN CON CRISTO y no en nuestras habilidades o talentos. Como Ezequiel de la primera lectura, San Pablo entiende que no importa la respuesta que reciba, el debe ser fuerte y valiente en su testimonio. El debe aceptar, como Jesús lo declara en el Evangelio, que un profeta no siempre es aceptado en su lugar natal, y que mientras muchos acepten el mensaje, muchos lo rechazan.

Para ser discípulo de Cristo, nosotros, también, necesitamos ser valientes y fieles en todas las cosas, incluso si todo va en contra de los caminos del mundo, o lo que es ahora socialmente aceptable. Este es el primer paso en el verdadero vivir cristiano.

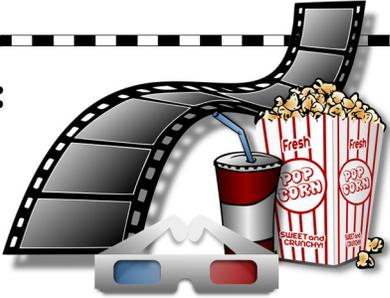
Como los profetas, somos mandados al mundo, y como los apóstoles, nosotros seremos desafiados al explicar y defender nuestra fe ante otros. No podemos ser creyentes que se sientan en la cerca, o discípulos quienes son tibios o divididos de corazón en nuestro compromiso. Tratando de reconciliar los caminos de este mundo con los del Evangelio, que inevitablemente nos causaran que tengamos que elegir uno de los dos.

En lugar de eso, necesitamos ser creyentes que sepamos de nuestra necesidad de Dios, y creyentes quienes siempre están creciendo en nuestra fe y en vida de oración. Es solo cuando nuestro valor, perseverancia y fidelidad se unen con Cristo y su misión que, como Pablo y Ezequiel, nosotros humildemente podamos aceptar nuestras propias debilidades, y nuestra necesidad de la fuerza y gracia de Dios. Solo entonces, podremos estar mas firmes enraizados en nuestra fe, y en nuestra relación con Cristo.

Padre Miguel Jeeva Antony

NEXT Summer Faith & Film Night:

July 29 @ 5:30pm
St. Mark Youth Room
 (in Parish Center)



IT'S A PACKED SUMMER! All Catholics, ages 21-39, are invited to join Eugene Catholic Young Adults for camping, game nights, service activities, retreat, and more! For details, contact: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or [facebook.com/EugeneCYA](https://www.facebook.com/EugeneCYA)

ALSO — *Theology on Tap* every 2nd Thursday at the K of C Hall

NEXT CARMELITE AUXILIARY MTG. — The Auxiliary will meet on the 2nd Monday, **September 10, 10:00am**, at the Carmel of Maria Regina (87609 Green Hill Rd. Eugene), in the library. Questions? Call Fay at 541-688-2491.

ST. MARK LAWN SALE — JULY 26, 27, 28
 THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 8AM—5PM SATURDAY: 8AM—3PM

UPCOMING RETREATS:

JOURNEY TOGETHER IN HOPE — Join for a weekend of fellowship, prayer and fun for people who have disabilities and their families, at Aldergate Camp (Turner, OR), **August 24-26**. To learn more, contact Kelsey Rea: krea@archdpdx.org, or specialneeds.archdpdx.org, or 503-233-8399..

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

DID JESUS' RESURRECTION REALLY HAPPEN?

The claim that Jesus Christ truly died and truly rose bodily from the dead is not optional for Christian faith. It is central to the gospels and the witness of the apostles (Mt 28:1-10; Mk 16:1-14; Lk 24:1-49; Jn 20:1-29; Acts 2:22-36). It's the guarantee to our own resurrection (1 Cor 15:20-22). As St. Paul insists, if Christ has not been raised from the dead, our faith is in vain (1 Cor 15:17).

Skeptics have dismissed Jesus' resurrection as a hoax or hallucination ... a superstition or myth. But all of the evidence points the other way. *First*, if it was a hoax perpetrated by his followers (Mt 28:11-15), would they have devoted the rest of their lives — and willingly suffer prison, torture, and death — for what they knew to be a lie? If the tomb wasn't empty, why didn't Jesus' enemies simply produce the dead body?

Second, if it was a hallucination, how could so many otherwise sane men and women be convinced they had encountered Jesus alive — more than 500 witnesses on separate occasions and in various locations (1 Cor 15:3-8)? If the resurrected Jesus was only a hallucination, how could people touch his body and watch him consume the food they gave him (Lk 24:36-43)?

Third, as the scriptural account shows, first-century people were no more likely than we to be superstitious or gullible about claims of returning from the grave. Even the apostles reacted with skepticism, not to mention many others (Lk 24:9-11; Jn 20:24-25; Acts 17:32).

Finally, a myth takes generations to develop and take hold within a culture. But Jesus' followers were testifying to his resurrection within a few days of his death. Even the biblical accounts of the Resurrection were written within the lifetime of those who knew what had really happened, and of those who might challenge those claims with evidence to the contrary.

For all of these reasons, the Christian testimony that Jesus was, indeed, raised from the dead, must be taken seriously by non-Christians.

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Jn 2:19; 11:25; 20:20-29; 21:12-13 · Acts 1:22; 3:15,26; 4:1-2,10,33; 5:30-32; 10:34-41; 13:27-39; 17:1-3,18,30-31; 23:6; 26:22-23 · Rom 1:1-4; 4:24-25; 5:20-22; 6:4,9; 7:4; 8:11; 10:9 · 1 Cor 6:14; 15:12-17; · 2 Cor 4:14 · Gal 1:1 · Eph 1:18-23 · Phil 3:10-11 · Col 2:12 · 1 Thes 1:9-10 · 2 Tm 2:8 · 1 Pt 1:3,20-21; 3:21 · 2 Pt 1:15 · Rv 1:17-18; 2:8 · & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) Nos. 627 · 638-658 · 992-1004 ·