

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, October 5, 2025
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C

The disciples in today's gospel come to Jesus with a request that sounds very familiar: ***"Increase our faith!"*** It is almost as if they are saying, "Lord, give us more. Make us stronger. Help us to feel greater certainty." But notice how Jesus responds. He does not direct them to grand visions or dramatic miracles. Instead, He points to something as small as a mustard seed. Why? Because faith is not about quantity but authenticity. Even the tiniest faith, if real, draws us into the boundless strength of God.

As St. John of the Cross once wrote, "Faith tells us of things we have never seen nor known, but which we shall experience." Faith is not about grasping everything, but about leaning into the mystery of God's presence. Think of it this way: faith is like walking in the night with only a small lamp to guide your steps. It does not flood the entire path with light. It does not remove all the uncertainty. But it gives you enough light to take the next step. And then the next. That is what faith does: it gives us courage to keep walking with God even when we cannot see the whole road ahead. St. Augustine described faith as "believing what you do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."

The saints understood that faith does not eliminate questions or struggles. It simply anchors us in the trust that God's hand is guiding us, even when the way feels dark. And here is the beautiful paradox: often, God does not ask for heroic gestures. He asks for the little things:

- The daily act of surrender.
- The whispered prayer before bed.
- The random act of kindness
- The choice to forgive.
- The effort to be patient with someone who tests our patience.

These seem so small, but in God's hands they become immense. St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the "Little Flower," called this her "little way" – offering even the tiniest acts of love to God with great faith. She believed that "a little act of kindness, done with love, is worth more than the greatest achievement done without love."

Like the mustard seed, our small offerings of trust and love can reshape lives, uproot bitterness, and plant hope where there was none. Faith, then, is not primarily something we manufacture by effort. It is first and foremost a gift. As the Catechism tells us: "Faith is a supernatural virtue, infused by God." (CCC 153)

It is God who plants the seed in our hearts. But we must choose to let it grow: by watering it with prayer, nourishing it with the sacraments, and

protecting it from the weeds of despair and pride. And once that seed takes root, it is no longer about what we can do, but about what God can do in and through us.

Remember how St. Paul in **2 Corinthians 12:9**, in his weakness, heard the Lord say: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” Faith means surrendering even our littleness so that God’s greatness can shine. So, the real question is not, “How much faith do I have?” That misses the point. The question is: Am I willing to trust God with the little faith I already hold? Because in God’s hands, even the smallest seed becomes a tree. Even the faintest trust unleashes a power that can move mountains – or, in Jesus’ own striking image, uproot a mulberry tree and plant it in the sea.

Our world today often tells us that only the big things matter – big plans, big changes, big victories. But the Gospel whispers to us a different truth: It says that in God’s kingdom, the small things, done with faith, carry an infinite weight.

A mustard seed is tiny, but alive. And when alive, it grows. Let us hold fast to this truth: *The just shall live by faith*. And even the smallest seed of faith – sincere, surrendered, alive – can move the immovable and bring forth the unimaginable.