

Pastor's message July / Aug. 2006
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PATHWAYS

The Gospel readings through July and August whiteness to the myriad pathways to faith.

At times, it is the miracle Jesus does that provokes astonishment, questions and then faith. In such a case, it is the power of God, the awesomeness of the divine, the massiveness of a force we neither understand nor control which leads to belief and trust.

At other times, it is the word Jesus speaks. In such a case it is the persuasiveness and the gentle dialogue or parable which touches us. We choose to be part of the mysterious depths the words seem to come from and we let the words take us to a new place which, paradoxically, feels familiar and seems like home.

There are instances when it is the community Jesus gathers around him which makes us decide for faith. The inclusiveness of the community, its capacity to love and forgive, its concern about the right values, induce us to make an act of faith in God who could create such a gathering.

The Church does its work best when it calls people to faith by proclaiming the power of God to renew us, by preaching the Word of God in all its compelling beauty, by teaching us to be a community of love and settling for nothing less. When the Church does this it is truly the Church of Christ.

Anthony