

THE VISION STILL HAS TIME

The vision still has its time,
presses on to fulfillment,
and will not disappoint;
if it delays, wait for it,
it will surely come,
it will not be late.

—Habakkuk 2:2-3

Living our faith in a time of chaos

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A VISION OF FAITH

In particularly stormy times, I find it helpful to remind myself that faith, like life, has its 'seasons'.

We live in an age where many people seem to thrive on conflict and negativity. It can get you down. Little things can build up and make us lose ground momentarily.

Add fatigue, a seemingly cold remark, someone's inability to hear you, someone's innocent forgetfulness that feels like rejection ... and the presence of God can seem to evade us. And then add the 'usual' things that life can throw at us—family troubles, work difficulties, illness and the stress of just 'turning up' in life... and you can see why people sometimes 'lose faith'.

Yes, it's not easy being a Catholic these days, especially with so much 'bad news' constantly confronting us.

However, we Catholics (including us Marists) are still prepared to take the risk of faith, in the 'good' and the 'bad' times.

Deep in our hearts we 'hang on' and believe Jesus our Risen Lord is closer to us than we are to ourselves.


In particularly stormy times, I find it helpful to remind myself that faith, like life, has its 'seasons'. The journey of faith and belief will inevitably take different shapes as we grow in life. We were given a precious gift in faith—often when we were young. But we are called to grow in our faith as we mature.

Having doubts and questions as we age is actually very necessary if our faith is to become adult. That is why as we get older, we are usually more aware of how much we do not know and never can. We slowly learn that we are all equally naked underneath our clothes and that we are all sinners, all on a journey.

And so, we commit ourselves again and again, on a daily basis, to the journey of faith. Often we don't know where we are going (like Abraham and Sarah) and we don't need to know! We step forward and take the great risk of the journey of faith, crying out: "Lord I believe, help my unbelief".

In times of darkness then, when God seems absent, let's remember the words of the Franciscan poet Fra Giovanni Giocondo (c1435–1515)

*The gloom of the world is but a shadow.
Behind it, yet within our reach, is joy.
There is radiance and glory in darkness, could we but see.
And to see, we have only to look.
I beseech you to look!*



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