

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

September 12, 2021 • 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 8:27-35

## Take Up Your Cross

*In a moment of grace, Peter speaks out proclaiming Jesus as the Christ. Jesus warns him not to tell anyone. Jesus goes on to predict his own rejection by the chief priests and scribes. He tells the apostles that he will suffer greatly, die and rise again on the third day.*

Jesus asks us to accept the crosses that come to us in our lifetime. We are asked to accept all the limitations and problems that go along with being human. We are invited to give up the illusion that we can live a problem-free life and accept whatever unique limitations or challenges we encounter without whining and complaining. We are invited to follow Jesus and live our lives as fully and honestly as he lived his.

One of the most challenging responsibilities of parenting is helping our children accept their limitations as they work toward self-reliance. Remember when your toddler was learning to stand on his own? At some point you had to remove your fingers from his and watch him teeter back and forth. Sometimes he would fall; other times, he might reach back and grab your finger. This process of letting go and standing by continues until our children reach adulthood and learn to balance their independence with a healthy need for others.

The process of letting go isn't always easy, but at some point we need to step aside, especially when the problem is of the child's own making. Sometimes we must allow our children to experience the consequences of missing the bus or forgetting their homework. At the same time, we teach faithfulness

and trust when we are there for the real emergencies.

Children learn to rely on God by witnessing our trust in God and by being taught to pray for the support they need. We know we have been successful as parents when our children can stand on their own, knowing they do not stand alone. Now if we could only learn that lesson ourselves.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask each person to think about last week and name something they are thankful for. Talk about where they need God's help in the coming week. Say a prayer listing your thanks and naming each need.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

How are you helping your child/children become self-reliant? In what areas of your life do you need to become more self-reliant? In what areas do you need to learn how to ask for help? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?