

MIRACLES OF OUR FAITH

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's Gospel

At that time Jesus left [Samaria] for Galilee. For Jesus himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his native place. When he came into Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him, since they had seen all he had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they themselves had gone to the feast.

Then he returned to Cana in Galilee, where he had made the water wine. Now there was a royal official whose son was ill in Capernaum. When he heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and asked him to come down and heal his son, who was near death. Jesus said to him, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." The royal official said to him, "Sir, come down before my child dies." Jesus said to him, "You may go; your son will live." The man believed what Jesus said to him and left.

While the man was on his way back, his slaves met him and told him that his boy would live. He asked them when he began to recover. They told him, "The

fever left him yesterday, about one in the afternoon." The father realized that just at that time Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live," and he and his whole household came to believe. Now this was the second sign Jesus did when he came to Galilee from Judea.

JOHN 4:43-54

Reflection

The readings for today, especially the gospel, prompt the question "Do we believe what we have heard?" How deep is our belief in the scriptures we read and pray and in the psalms and songs we sing? In today's gospel from John, we are reminded of Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana. This is immediately followed by Jesus healing the son of a royal official. This royal official believed in what he had heard about Jesus. He made the effort to come and see Jesus because of his belief in him and his powers to heal the sick.

Throughout the gospels we hear of many healing stories and signs of who Jesus really was — the Son of God. Many in these stories of healing had the faith to believe in Jesus. What about us? It's hard to ponder the depth and breadth of our belief if we remain at the surface level of our thoughts. I find it helpful to go deeper and reflect on the roots of my own belief in Jesus. I don't need signs, though they abound. My own spirituality flows from the prayers, songs, psalms, and scriptures where God's Word continually reveals itself. This, in and of itself, is miraculous to me. It is a sign of God's continued presence in our lives and all of creation.

Allowing myself the time to go inward and allow space for the Beloved in my life enables me to stay grounded and strong in my faith. God continually beckons each of us and desires a close and intimate relationship where we each are known by the one who created us. It is an experience beyond words; it is the deep knowing that each of us is created in God's image and likeness. That, in itself, is miraculous. I pray that today is a day where each of us can set aside time to simply be with the One who brings life to us all.

Miracles of Faith

O God, you sent your only Son so we might have life and have it to the fullest. May the salvation we have through Jesus' death and resurrection find a home deep within us.

O Jesus, you moved and had your being through the Spirit of your Father. May we look beyond and within ourselves, seeing through the eyes of faith, the

Spirit's work among us.

O Spirit of God, may we soar as if on eagle's wings, riding the currents of our faith as we live our lives each day, open to your inspiration and guidance.



Libertyville, IL Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- What are the miracles in your life -- past and present?
- What helps your own belief in God? What supports might you use to strengthen the foundation of your faith?

For Prayer

O God whose love knows no bounds,

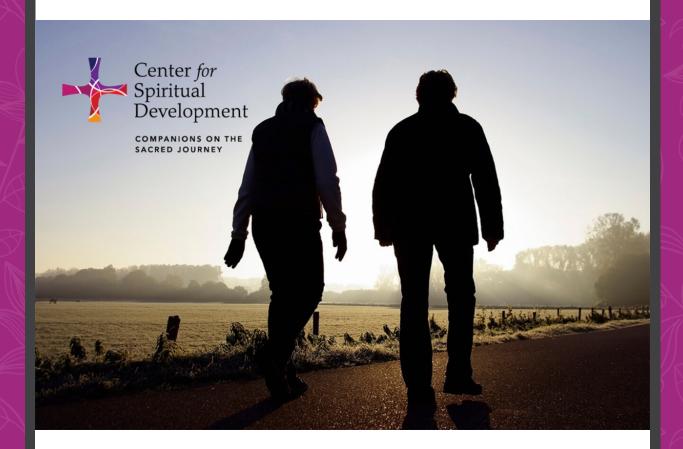
increase our faith and good works as this day unfolds.

May we pray and ask for the grace we need
to be conduits of your love to strengthen those with whom we journey.

Amen.

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