

Father John Catoir

Share Your Faith

In view of the fact that your faith is such a precious gift, don't you think you should be concerned about sharing it a bit more?

Granted, you can't force your faith on anyone, but you can speak up once in a while and explain how much your faith means to you. Jesus loves you, he died for your sins. Don't be afraid to tell the good news of God's unchanging love.



For me, the life of faith breaks the chains of doubt and fear. With a little imagination faith enables you to cope with life's troubles and live a happier, more dynamic life.

Imagine yourself as an heir to a fortune. No matter what happens, you know your heavenly Father loves you; he has communicated his love to you over and over again. You do not have the slightest doubt about his ongoing support. You sense his support in all you do, and his promise of future gifts fills your soul with joy here and now.

Time and again, you feel the touch of his hand on your shoulder as though to reassure you. Whenever you become conscious of your weakness, you feel His love, and you receive immediate strength and power. His touch brings a smile to your face every time you advert to it. For the person of faith, the very name of God means joy. To know Him is to live in His gladness.

Ceaseless activity is not what God wants. He asks you to live with Him and for Him. Whenever you feel troubled, He wants you to draw close to Him and He will give you

everything you need, as you need it. Calm down and trust the Lord. Remember the words of Jesus: "Fear is useless, trust me!"

The same healing process can take place when you have doubts of any kind. Immediately turn your thoughts to God's unchanging love. Speak to Him. Deliberately advert to His touch, and gradually all negative thoughts and feelings will begin to dissipate. When your soul returns to its normal state of peace and joy, when you can begin prayers of thanksgiving. At any time, day or night, even in the darkest moments, He is there to comfort and support you.

Shouldn't you share this wonderful gift of faith more than you do? You may appear to be foolish to some, but so did Jesus. He was vilified merely for calling the God of Israel Father (In Aramaic, the word "Abba" actually means "Poppa" or "Daddy.")

If you just said "Jesus loves you, he died for you," your words might strike a chord in someone desperately in need of spiritual comfort. You are a wonderful instrument of God's healing grace, but the instrument has to be used.

Faith is a precious gift and we should share it. Let your own light shine, no matter what.

I believe every parish should have an evangelization committee which meets often to address the question: "How can we do a better job of sharing our faith?" Call it the "Love Committee," and pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance at every turn.

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