

Pentecost Sunday

May 23, 2010

The word, "advocate," has Latin roots that mean to summon or to call. The "voc" part of the word means "voice." The Greek word, *paraclete*, means to summon to the side of.

Do you have an advocate? Who? What does your advocate do? What difference does it make in your life that you have an advocate?



John 14: 15-17

'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.'

Reflections

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... (1 Peter 3:15, NIV)

Here are excerpts from the Faith Projects that 10 ninth-grade Confirmation students prepared at this time in their lives to give an answer for the hope that is in them.

Jarret Harbarger: I have my mom's encouragement for my faith, and my religion provides me with a source of Hope.

Casey West: I am not perfect and it's easy to get distracted from God, especially when I am not in a God-mood, but He still loves me and has a plan for me.

Matthew Slahetka: I feel that God has power over everything. Even though I can't sense him, He protects me, He is there for me, and He has done amazing things in my life.

Samantha Irvin: My faith is trusting that God will answer my prayers and will always be with me, so I am staying loyal with worship and praise to Him alone.

David Gillespie: God has a plan for each and every one of us. He is an eternal overseer who is always there protecting us and opening doors for us for our own good, so.....Reach out, take God's hand, and strengthen that relationship.

Jade Wilkins: Even though I've made many mistakes, God will still love me, forgive me, and help me. I feel safe because I am not alone and He will always be on my side.

Sam Leatherman: God is my one and only Lord, and Jesus is my savior, sent down to earth to die for our sins....think about how hard that must have been.

Amanda Schienle: I trust the Lord, no matter what happens; He is the one I trust the most. I believe that He is always with me.

Konrad Anderson: Jesus was a more advanced, perfect human whom God sent to earth to provide an example for all of us to follow. Although my faith may be tested, I will try to follow the righteous path in Jesus' footsteps.

Allison Johnson: Faith is a gift from God; we can choose to open the door of our heart to Him. My friend asked me, 'Do you believe in God?'.....I answered YES!

Readings

The readings for this week are verses were selected by St. John guides for their confirmation students to serve as an ongoing encouragement to spiritual growth. This week, read the given text and ask yourself these questions:

“How does this scripture prompt my spiritual growth? How will I apply it in the days ahead?”

Sunday, May 23

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God. *Ephesians 2:8*

Monday, May 24

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Jesus Christ, so that we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. *Ephesians 2:10*

My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart, for they will give you a long and satisfying life. *Proverbs 3:1-2*

Tuesday, May 25

Show me the path where I should walk, O LORD; point out the right road for me to follow. *Psalms 25:4*

Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you. *Psalms 25:5*

Wednesday, May 26

Trust in the Lord and do good. Then you will live safely in the land and prosper. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desires. *Psalms 37:3-4*

Thursday, May 27

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." *Deuteronomy 31:6*

I command you – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. *Joshua 1:9*

Friday, May 28

For the Lord is our light and our protector. He gives us grace and glory. No good thing will the Lord withhold from those who do what is right. *Psalms 84:11*

But you are a shield around me, o Lord; you bestow glory on me and lift up my head. To the Lord I cry aloud, and he answers me from his holy hill. *Psalms 3:3-4*

Saturday, May 29

I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." *Matthew 17:20*