

OCTOBER 21 2025 DEACON ROBERT KINGHORN

Well, I think if you look at the readings today, they seem to be all about faith, and trust, and risk in our lives. You know, it looks like there is a risk in our life so often. Faith is a risk in some ways. As St. Paul said, "I walk by faith and not by sight." The famous passage in 2 Corinthians. "I walk by faith and not by sight."

Sometimes we feel that we're walking by faith, don't we? Things don't work out right. And maybe it's often we do call for the Lord to bring back people to the faith in their family, and we don't see any change perhaps. So today, again, the readings are talking about walking in faith, and not always by sight, and that the Lord will be with us. But I say it's always a risk.

There's a story I heard years ago, and maybe you've heard it—I think it's circulated a lot. It's about the man who used to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. I think it was The Great Blondin they called him. Anyway, he would be up there, and he'd say to the crowd, "I am going to walk across the Falls on this tightrope, and I've got a wheelbarrow. And I'm going to put a rock in it. Do you think we can do it?" "Yes, Blondin, you can do it!" So he'd go out there, and he'd walk across and then come back. "Are you sure it's as good?" "Yes, we believe in you!" And when he came back, he said, "Okay, so who wants to get into the wheelbarrow and come with me this time?"

See, there's a risk. They had faith in The Great Blondin, but there's still that risk. And I think this is really a message that's for all of us, 'cause sometimes we doubt, don't we? There's a day where we

say, "Keep coming back, keep coming back." Coming back to faith and trusting in the Lord.

Today, we heard in the Psalm response, "Here I am, Lord, I come to do Your will." Isn't that a great thing we should almost say every morning when we've waken up? "Here I am, Lord, I come to do Your will." Not my will, but I come to do Your will. And we are, as it mentioned in the Gospel, these faithful servants.

Now you might say, "Oh, not me, I sometimes stop." But yes, we keep coming back to this Eucharist together, don't we? That is a faith. And you are the one that's a faithful servant. You think, "Well, maybe I'm not a servant." Yes, we're all servants. Maybe we're parents, grandparents, maybe we're parishioners, but we're all serving someone. And we're ready at any moment to do whatever we're asked to help them, aren't we? So we're all servants. And thank you for being these servant people of the church. This is what God asks—that we just be servant people for one another.

Even a president of a company is a servant in some ways, and they have to do what is good for the people they are serving. So this is why we have to continue to look out in hope, look for people who perhaps feel hopeless in their life, and be with them, and to keep praying for them.

It says in the Gospel as well, "Blessed is that faithful servant. The master will sit down with them and be with them." This is what the master does with us every time we celebrate this Eucharist, isn't it? We are here, and the Lord comes, and He sits with us at the table of the altar, and He offers Himself to us in this great

meal—this great meal that we celebrate. And the Lord knows how faithful we are. We keep coming back, we keep coming back.

So I also want to remind you as well that this is a year of hope. And I think my question throughout this year of hope has been the same to all the people: "How do we find hope in our life?" Often we can't trust the media, some media. How do we continue to know what way to follow? But this is why you are here—because we know Jesus has the life, the way, and the truth, and the light, and we follow Jesus. And we know there's truth there.

Yes, yes, there may be a risk in life, but we're willing to take that risk to continue to follow Jesus. So that's why we're here. But there's another thing I want to remind you. In this year of hope, who is going to bring hope to the people who feel hopeless? People in prison, people in hospitals, people in the streets where I go—who is going to bring them hope?

I'll finish with a story about someone I met, oh, it's probably about four years ago on the street. She ignored me for many years—well, for many days, I should say—when I was down there. She just turned her back. But eventually I kept going, kept going back. And finally, I got a smile out of her. She's one of these ladies who was living on the streets, but also living how she got her earnings through the street. But she was there every week. And gradually, one day after another, we'd get closer. And finally I said, "Could I pray for you?" And she said, "Yes." I said, "What do you want me to pray for?" She said, "Could you pray that I'll be safe on these streets?"

You know, the work that she did was a work of danger. So finally we've got this, and finally, every week now, I pray for her, and I bless her. Sometimes it takes a while, but continue to bring hope to the people.