

Chapter 4 – Bringing about the Obedience of Faith

Faith is a personal and a communal relationship. Faith seeks understanding and is a friend of reason. Faith is necessary for salvation. Faith is a gift of grace. Faith is a free, human act. Faith believes in a message. This message is found in Scripture and Tradition.

The culture of the United States has been strongly influenced by the eighteenth-century Enlightenment, or Age of Reason. That philosophy was based on the promise that reason and common sense should be our only guides. This led to a belief that we are self-sufficient and self-explanatory, and do not need religious faith. However, the questions people raise point us to the transcendent origins of humanity.

Our faith communion with God develops in stages. It is a pilgrimage.

Reflection:

- How did you receive faith from the Church?
- Who are the outstanding models of faith that inspire you to a deeper faith and practice?
- At what moments in life has your faith been challenged?