

Dear SPA Family,

Probably many of us have experienced a situation when the light suddenly went out during a thunderstorm - a longer or shorter power outage makes us realize that even a tiny flame of a candle flickering in the dark is enough to illuminate a dark place. **A small flame of a candle makes the darkness less terrible**; that although we cannot see clearly, we can still see the outline of the objects around us, and this allows us to move around in a dark place more easily.

There are situations in our lives when we, together with the apostles, want to cry out aloud: *'Lord, increase our faiths.'* When we struggle with our weaknesses, diseases, ambition, unemployment - **we want to cry out: 'Lord, increase our faith!'** Lord, give us faith, because it's hard to understand why my life is this way?

During the Holy Mass in St. Peter in Rome, Pope Francis canonized Mother Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Charity, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. During her lifetime, Saint of Calcutta wrote in one letter to her spiritual director:

“If I am ever a saint, I will certainly be a saint of ‘darkness.’ **I will be absent all the time in heaven - to give light to those who are in darkness on earth.**” For many years she lived in the terrible darkness of faith – but then she started loving God so much that she devoted her whole life and herself entirely to the service of Him and other people.

The one who devoted herself entirely to God, as she describes herself, suddenly stopped seeing and experiencing Him. How do we know about this? From her letters to bishops and spiritual directors, in which she described her interior life.

Nevertheless, everybody who saw her deeds, her work and commitment to the poorest, abandoned, sick, crippled, rejected and cursed by society, had no doubt that **Mother Teresa of Calcutta is a saint, living in communion - in intimacy with God.** Although she did not see Him, although her heart did not feel His closeness, no one had any doubts that He was with her and supported her.

Faith is trusting in God in everything, although it is sometimes difficult. Jesus does not rebuke his disciples for asking him for greater faith, but **He gives hope that even ‘faith as small as a mustard seed’ can work a miracle - change life.**

Just as the smallest, faintest flame of a barely smoldering candle can dispel darkness, so even ‘the smallest faith’ can give hope. Together with Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the apostles, let us cry out: ‘**Lord, increase our faith!**’

Have a blessed week. Fr. Chris Ciastoń

