

THE SUPPORT OF OTHER'S FAITH



Matthew 9:1-8

We need the faith of others to help us when we are in real need. That is why people often ask others to pray for them. They may find it hard to pray for themselves and, so, they ask others to pray for them. In the gospel today, a paralysed man is carried to Jesus by the faith of his friends. Nothing is said about the faith of the paralysed man. The gospel says that when Jesus saw their faith—the faith of those who carried the paralytic—he said to the paralytic, “*Courage, my child, your sins are forgiven,*” and then went on to cure his paralysis.

We have all had times when we were carried to the Lord by the faith of others. It was the faith of our parents, and of our grandparents, that took us to the font for baptism. As babies, we had no faith of our own at that time. We begin our lives as Christians carried by the faith of others. In the course of our lives, we find ourselves still needing the faith of others to keep our own relationship with the Lord alive. Indeed, we are always very interdependent when it comes to our relationship with the Lord. As I grow towards the Lord, I help others to do so as well. As I grow away from him, I make it more difficult for others to grow towards him. In a very profound sense, we depend on each other on the pilgrimage of life. In that sense our own relationship with the Lord, or lack of it, while very personal is never purely private; it always impacts on others.