

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • A
June 14-15 2008 • Christ the King

“God doesn’t choose teams like we do”

PE team selection; vice-president selection

Let’s look at team Jesus:

Peter, a fisherman, owned his own business, had a house on the lake. He had a wonderful ability to put his foot in his mouth

Matthew, a tax collector, we talked about him last week. He had extorted money from his own people.

There are James and John, the Zebedee sons, AKA the sons of thunder. You wonder about their tempers.

A couple of political radicals were on the team

And Judas, who would betray him.

How does he choose his team? He simply calls them by name and invites them to come and follow. There is no promise of wealth, security or fame.
Just follow me

And this is his dream team?

They really aren’t much different from us. They had jobs and responsibilities. It would be a long time before they would climb into the stained glass windows of the world’s cathedrals. One of their biggest problems was faith. They were filled with doubts. Is this wandering preacher really the Messiah? Are we following a loser? Were we insane for leaving our families, our homes and our jobs?

Despite their lack of faith in Him, HE had faith in them — every last one of them, even Judas — and that makes all the difference in the world.

Faith is the key!

In baptism Jesus calls each one of us by name. This call, this invitation is strengthened and sustained each time we gather and hear the Word and eat at this table. (First Eucharist tie in: _____)

We too may have our doubts. Our faith may waver. We may wonder does this really make sense? Do I really believe? Do I have faith?

Despite our lack of faith in Him, HE has faith in you. He has faith in us — every last one of us — and this makes all the difference. Jesus has faith in you and that is all that matters. We are his dream team!

Let me end with a quote from the 19th Century. Robert Bridges wrote to Jesuit poet Gerard Manly Hopkins. Bridges was struggling with his faith. "What should I read?" he asked. Hopkins replied, "A book on faith cannot be a substitute for living the faith."

So maybe instead of wondering about faith, we should just live it. Jesus has faith in you to live your faith and that makes all the difference.