



# ST. PIUS X PARISH

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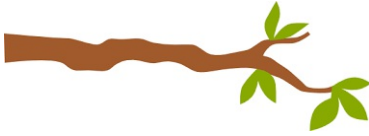


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OUR PIUS UPDATE  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2021





## LET GO OF THE BRANCH

A man named Jack was walking along a steep cliff when he accidentally got too close to the edge and fell. Fortunately, he grasped a branch that kept him from plummeting to the ground. Jack began yelling for help. Ready to give up, he at last heard a voice from above.

*"I can see you, Jack. Are you all right?"*

*"Yes, but who are you, and where are you?"*

*"I am the Lord, Jack. I'm everywhere."*

*"God, please help me! If you'll get me down from here, I'll serve you for the rest of my life."*

*"Okay. Let go of the branch."*

*"What?"*

*"I said, 'let go of the branch.' Just trust me. Let go."*

There was a long silence. Finally, Jack yelled, *"HELP! HELP! IS ANYONE ELSE UP THERE?"*

**(Author Unknown)**

Do you ever feel like Jack? We want faith until faith asks us to leap into the terror of the unknown. The centurion in today's Gospel takes that leap -- even does a few somersaults and lands a perfect 10. *"But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed."*

It's doubtful our leaps will be so awesome. More likely, we will stumble and stall; we will clench and panic. It's okay. We'll get there. Why? Our Lord understands. He waits for us. He already has our safety net right where it needs to be. He is listening. Ask our Lord to guide you on how to release your grip. Look out, centurion. You might have some competition.

—**Kathleen Sullivan, PhD**, has assisted in the establishment and ongoing development of [Jesuit Prayer](#), and founded the University of Notre Dame's original prayer site in 2007. Kathleen is the author of [I had Lunch with God: Gospel Inspirations for Tough Times](#) and the co-author of the forthcoming website [findinggodtoday.org](#).

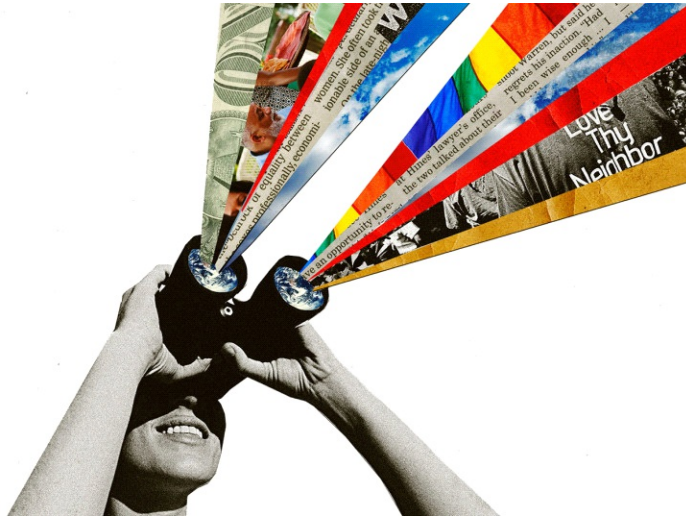
## PRAYER

*Lord,  
give me your grace.  
On my own,  
I am, too, frail of faith to take the leap.  
It will take time.  
You wait.  
Hold my hand.  
I'll get there.*

—Kathleen Sullivan

SOURCE: [www.JesuitPrayer.org](http://www.JesuitPrayer.org)

## WHAT WISE PEOPLE DO DIFFERENTLY



Like intelligence, wisdom has no single definition, and different researchers measure it in different ways. I believe it has three dimensions: **cognitive**, **reflective**, and **compassionate**. The **cognitive** is about the desire to uncover deeper meaning. A wise person is always questioning as she seeks to better understand herself and others. She can also accept that life is unpredictable, so she'll never fully understand everything. Even Socrates said that because he could admit his own ignorance, he might be the wisest man of all.

To understand the world, you need to be open to multiple perspectives. That's why we need the **reflective** dimension, which is about putting our ego aside to get the bigger picture. Wise people can not only imagine situations from another person's point of view but also see themselves through someone else's eyes. They have enough self-awareness to acknowledge their own positive and not-so-positive qualities, and they take responsibility for their own lives.

Thinking less about yourself and more about other people usually fosters kindness, which brings us to the **compassionate** dimension. I've been asked whether this dimension is necessary, and my argument is that without compassion, a person cannot be wise. Someone who has great insight into human behaviour but doesn't care about others would make a good cult leader or an unscrupulous used-car salesperson.

Ironically, studying wisdom doesn't make you wiser, because you can't find it in books. We gain it by learning from our experiences, even the smallest ones: When someone cuts you off traffic, do you get riled up, or can you take a breath and practice equanimity? And one of the most important predictors of wisdom is being open to new things, so stay curious. A wise person never stops asking.

**SOURCE:** By Monika Ardelt, PhD, Wisdom Researcher

## WHAT IS WISDOM?



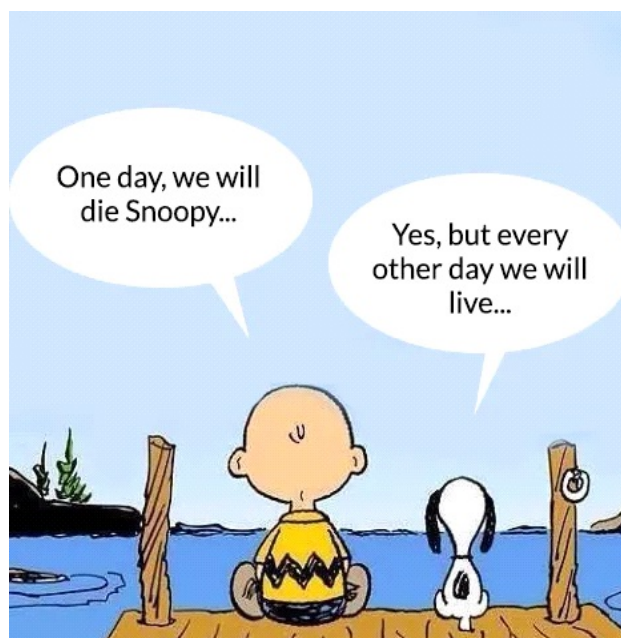
Wisdom is the first and highest gift of the Holy Spirit, because it is the perfection of faith. Through wisdom, we come to value properly those things which we believe through faith. The truths of Christian belief are more important than the things of this world, and wisdom helps us to order our relationship to the created world properly, loving Creation for the sake of God, rather than for its own sake.

Wisdom is the perfection of faith. As **Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.**, notes in his ***Modern Catholic Dictionary***, "Where faith is a simple knowledge of the articles of Christian belief, wisdom goes on to a certain divine penetration of the truths themselves." The better we understand those truths, the more we value them properly. Thus wisdom, the ***Catholic Encyclopedia*** notes, "by detaching us from the world, makes us relish and love only the things of heaven." Through wisdom, we judge the things of the world in light of the highest end of man—the contemplation of God.

**SOURCE:** The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: the Manifestation of Sanctifying Grace

By Scott P. Richert

[http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/tp/Gifts\\_of\\_the\\_Holy\\_Spirit.htm](http://catholicism.about.com/od/beliefsteachings/tp/Gifts_of_the_Holy_Spirit.htm)



## FEAST OF THE CANADIAN MARTYRS SEPTEMBER 26



**September 26** is the **feast of the Canadian Martyrs**. We usually pray a **novena** for the **nine days leading up to and including this Feast Day**. This year, from September 18 - 26, would you like to pray this novena to the Canadian Martyrs for those hurt by residential schools? We will ask the Martyrs to help us

- to acknowledge truth
- to take steps toward reconciliation
- to move forward in hope

You will find this novena as an attachment to this update. We will also post this on our facebook page and website, beginning September 18. Please feel free to share this with your family and friends.

