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“Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of faith is to see what we believe.” St Augustine

“The fields were parched and brown from the lack of rain, and the crops lay wilting from thirst. People were anxious and irritable as they searched the sky for any sign of relief. Days turned into arid weeks. No rain came.

The ministers of the local churches called for an hour of prayer on the town square the following Saturday. They requested that everyone bring an object of faith for inspiration.

At high noon on the appointed Saturday, the townspeople turned out en masse, filling the square with anxious faces and hopeful hearts. The ministers were touched to see the variety of objects clutched in prayerful hands — holy books, crosses, rosaries.

When the hour ended, as if on magical command, a soft rain began to fall. Cheers swept the crowd as they held their treasured objects high in gratitude and praise. From the middle of the crowd one faith symbol seemed to overshadow all the others: A small nine-year old child had brought an umbrella.”

Laverne Hall, **Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul**, Health Communications, Inc, 1997

Jesus gave his disciples all they needed to believe; he lived with them, taught them, brought them with him as he healed and walked among God’s people. They witnessed the Palm Procession into the city of

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Jerusalem, yet lacked the ability or denied truth of Jesus’ words that he was going to and rise again. I am reminded of the Palm Sunday parade with people waving palm branches before the Messiah when I think the people bringing objects of faith for inspiration asking for rain. The only inspiration we need as Christians is Jesus Christ, yet we often act like the disciples and overlook the most visible and loving act of devotion that God ever gave us; the life, death and resurrection of the Lord. Easter the reminder for us that our object of faith is as powerful as a small child’s hope for rain so much so an umbrella will be needed. At Easter, we are reminded that we are indeed the recipients of a divine promise of love, guided now by the Holy Spirit, until our Lord returns.

That Spirit moves among us in the acts that we do together; worship, service and mission. As we celebrate our Easter joy, I suggest you combine that joy with an act of devotion to show others we are reminded of God’s greatest gift by sharing what we have with others in the best way we can as children of God!

Wishing you a most blessed Easter!

Rev. Bill

