

As I headed home to start preparing for the celebration of Thanksgiving with my family after Faith Day (a celebration with my Board family) I was reflecting on some of the conversations we had held that day.

Our focus as the CEC was on “Promise” and involved personal examination of what many promises mean to us. We looked at the Baptismal and Confirmation promises we reaffirm at various times in the Church year, other promises we make in Marriage, Citizenship, military or police service, the simple promises of joining a youth movement such as the Scouts or Girl Guides. We then looked at the Bishops’ Pastoral Letter, “Renewing the Promise”, and what that calls forth from us as partners in Catholic Education.



October is a time rich with images of promise: the brilliant colours we observe are a reminder of how much beauty God offers us and the promise of Creation. Certainly, another part of the ‘promise’ is that winter isn’t far behind; however, how can one not be stirred by the “line of smoky hills” and “crimson forest”ⁱ on a sunny morning in October. I found myself singing the hymn, “How Great Thou Art” at the top of my lungs with all the car windows open and felt a great sense of gratitude to God for filling my vision with such beauty.

That called to mind another woman, a model to all of us, who sang to God in gratitude for His call to her: Mary, Jesus’ Blessed Mother, whose feast day we celebrate on October 7th as Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Mary understood the meaning of promise as she accepted God’s plan for her to carry His Son and give Him birth. Through the centuries, Mary has appeared to people to renew her promise to mother the Body of Christ and to intercede for us.

Traditionally, October was highlighted as the month of the Rosary; however, this beautiful prayer can be offered at any time of year to remind us of all of the promises we enjoy; as we meditate on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, we enter into relationship with Our Mother who promises to accompany us on our life journey, to fill us with hope and help us to be joyful disciples of her Son.

October ends with the Eve of the Feast of All Saints (All Hallows’ Eve or Hallowe’en). May this be for us not just a secular opportunity to dress up, eat too much candy and party hearty, but a time for us to reflect on the many saints who have heard God’s promise and made their own to follow Him.

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ⁱ Indian Summer” by William Wilfred Campbell