

Depending on God in Times of Fear (A.D. 1789-1814)

Homily Hints

We Live Our Faith

The Big Question:

“What do I do to take charge of my life?”

Chapter Goals:

1. to understand the reasons for revolutionary turmoil, especially in France
2. to appreciate the courage of the Church in facing the turmoil and persecutions of this time
3. to choose to live as good Catholics and good citizens in the world today.

Homily Hints:

This chapter of the *We Live Our Faith* program brings young people through a dark period in Church history. The Enlightenment spread throughout Europe and attempted to weaken the position of the Church. Revolution in a most violent manner came to France. Unrest continued with the infamous Reign of Terror that resulted in the Napoleonic wars. In facing these seeming insurmountable obstacles, the Church never gave way in its charge of keeping the faith.

Today, there continue to be turmoil, unrest, violence, and war in the world. Since 9/11 our culture has increased fear and uncertainty. Remind the young people of the courage of the Church. Encourage the young people that to be steadfast in their faith is to have the bedrock to take charge of their lives. The challenge for the Catholics of the middle of the 18th century is the challenge we face now: to choose to live as good Catholics and good citizens in the world that we find ourselves in. Take time to point out values that Jesus called his followers to in facing the world of their time. To be a good Catholic—standing up for the values and doctrine of the Church—defines a good citizen.

Notes