

## **March 2, 2014 Lucy, Charlie Brown and Trust Homily**

Many of you are undoubtedly familiar with the "Peanuts" comic strip and its memorable cast of characters. Who can possibly forget Charlie Brown and his friends Linus, his sister Lucy, Peppermint Patty, Pigpen, Schroeder and Snoopy, the Brown family dog.

Although they were friends, Lucy was a notorious prankster and often targeted Charlie Brown for her own amusement. An example: Lucy would invite Charlie Brown to kick a football, which she held upright on the ground by using her forefinger. When Charlie Brown approached the football to kick it, Lucy would pull the ball away, often leaving Charlie Brown on the seat of his pants. Lucy invited Charlie Brown to trust her, yet time and time again young Charlie would be deceived by his close friend. I suspect that Charlie could always count on Lucy's friendship. Why else would he submit to the same prank over and over again?

In Christ's Sermon on the Mount, he invites his disciples to trust their heavenly Father.

The followers of Jesus are distinguished by their absolute confidence in God. To recall a popular television series of years gone by, it is true that "Father knows best". Indeed. He has our welfare in mind. "If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will He not much provide for you, O you of little faith?" (MT 6:30)

Christ declares that the enemy of trust is worry and anxiety. No less than five times in our Gospel reading today does Jesus speak of worry and anxiety (Mt.6:25-35). Jesus contrasts the faithful disciples with the unbelieving pagans who are constantly anxious about their lives.

Nevertheless, letting go of our worries and concerns is not without difficulty. Ask anyone who is gravely ill or without a job for an extended period of time. So often we can be like Charlie Brown and find ourselves on the seat of our pants, having been disappointed by the Lord in whom we have placed our trust. But, it is important for us to recall that even on the Cross; Our Blessed Lord set a wonderful example for us. He trusted to the end! His final words; "Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit" (Lk. 23:46).

As Professor William Barclay writes: "God gives us life and if he gives us life, surely we can trust Him for lesser things".

Do we trust our heavenly Father?

Amen.