

We all know the story of the goose that lays the golden eggs.

A couple own a goose that lays golden eggs, but after a time they want to get richer quicker, and cut open the goose finding nothing more than the guts of the goose.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles says:

With great power the Apostles bore witness
to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus,

The key words here are “great power.” The Greek for this is *megalei dynamei* which have the same meaning in the words we use in English, *mega* and *dynamic*.

Another important word in this phrase is *witness*, which in Greek is *martyrian* where we get the English word *martyr*.

Jesus speaks in the Gospel saying:

Amen, amen, I say to you,
we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen,

And the word rendered here as *testify* is again *martyroumen* — *martyr*.

Today is the feast of St. Anselm of Canterbury. A medieval theologian and bishop. He sought to use reason to penetrate the depths of faith, writing in the 12th century:

O Lord, to penetrate your sublimity,
for in no wise do I compare my understanding with that;
but I long to understand in some degree your truth,
which my heart believes and loves.

For I do not seek to understand that I may believe,
but I believe in order to understand.
For this also I believe, —
that unless I believed,
I should not understand.

What is important is this: Faith is a supernatural gift – a gift from God. It isn't something we've dreamt up in our own minds. And this is hard for the world to grasp. Our western culture seeks knowledge as power. And when try to use knowledge in place of faith, we tend to lose the treasure and in its place we find only the guts of the world.

Yet it is our Faith which is the “great power” that is spoken of in the first reading, and Saint Paul reminds us that “faith comes through hearing.”

Let us ask our Lord Jesus to “increase our faith” so that when we “witness” to what we have seen we may do so with “great power,” which comes from our knowledge of the reality of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.