

**Reflection for the September 2021 Millbury SASV meeting**  
**Faith and Action**

**Tonight's scripture which was also the second reading at Mass this weekend is from the Epistles or Letter of James. The author, James, is not likely one of the original twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus, but rather, is described by many theologians as a "humble servant of God and the Lord Jesus Christ", and the "brother of the Lord" (Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3). As a definitive leader of the early church in Jerusalem, James's writings councils the new church and its followers in the ethical and moral work of being a disciple of Jesus. When reading (or hearing) the text of James's letter, you can recognize the echoes in the words of Jesus found in Matthew 25: *"in truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to the least of these of mine, you did it to me."* The message here for me, is that true faith is not just about what you say, it must be accompanied by work, and let me say, hard work.**

**I am not pointing out anything novel and new here. As you know, the notion of the tie between faith and action is and has always been at the heart of Christian believes. I do, however, find this scripture from the letter of James particularly apropos to this moment, to our SASV Family and our Millbury Associate Group. I love that it was part of our liturgy yesterday. To hear it twice in as many days.**

**At a time, as we begin a "new Associates year", a new start after a long stretch when we have not met in person for over 550 days, at time when our congregation of Sisters and Associates assemble remotely in a delayed Chapter 2020 for the future for both the Sisters and Associates, at a time when our SASV family**

**celebrates 167 years (on September 8) of active and faithful apostolic service for the church. It is a good time examine our personal response to an active call to our faith and also to our call to be Associates of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Assumption. Over the twenty-three years of being an Associate I have reflected many times on a particular exhortation of the first superior and foundress of the Congregation, Léocadie Bourgeois. Her words to the sisters of the fledgling SASV Congregation: “*Serve the Lord wholeheartedly, my sisters (and brothers), at death that’s all that will remain.*” I find it a striking and direct invitation to do the good Lord’s work,**

**Tonight, we pray that our hearts be ablaze with the promises of hope so that we may faithfully live out our call to mission to REVEAL THE FATHERS LOVE.**

**Stephen’s notes for a reflection 9-13-2021**