

Lesson 4 Hebrews 10-11 Handout – Some Heroes For Today

The roll call of biblical heroes in Hebrews 11 is an inspiring reminder of the legacy of faith that both Jews and Christians share. But we should not make the mistake of thinking that the roll call ended with the Old Testament or when Hebrews was written; it has continued throughout the centuries and into our own times. The Church in our age has witnessed countless miracles of faith and countless triumphs of unbroken faith in the midst of apparent defeat. Imitating Hebrews we might say, for instance:

By faith the Solidarity movement in Poland steadfastly resisted Soviet tyranny and state-imposed atheism in the face of impossible odds and eventually won, leading to the fall of the Iron Curtain.

By faith the people of the Philippines overthrew the oppressive Marcos regime peacefully, the whole nation engaging in fervent prayer as nuns and laypeople together prayed the rosary in front of tanks.

By faith the Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton the founder of the Family Rosary Crusade was able to stage massive Rosary rallies throughout the world. He extensively utilized mass communication, helped by world-recognized celebrities of Hollywood at that time, promoting his ministry of binding families through prayer under the Family Rosary. “The family that prays together, stays together.”

By faith Father Rick Thomas, founder of the Lord’s Ranch, distributed food to the poor who scavenged on the garbage dump of Juárez, Mexico, often witnessing the multiplication of food and other miracles.

By faith an unknown Franciscan sister, Mother Angelica, with no financial resources, founded a television studio in a garage that became a worldwide evangelistic radio and television apostolate.

By faith Protestant missionary Jackie Pullinger traveled to the dreaded Walled City of Hong Kong, alone and nearly penniless, and ended up bringing countless drug addicts, prostitutes, criminals, and gang members to faith in Christ and radical transformation of life.

By faith thousands of sick people have been healed at the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes and other shrines, and thousands more have been brought to deeper conversion or joy in the midst of their suffering.

By faith Cardinal Nguyen Van Thuan of Vietnam spent thirteen years in a communist reeducation camp, nine of them in solitary confinement, celebrating Mass in secret with a few drops of smuggled wine and a tiny piece of bread on the palm of his hand.

By faith ordinary women like Asia Bibi in Pakistan and Mariam Yehya Ibrahim in Sudan showed extraordinary courage, refusing to renounce their faith in Christ even in the face of imprisonment and the sentence of death.

By faith the French Trappist monks of Tibhirine, Algeria, when threatened by Islamic extremism, chose to stay among the people they loved; all seven of them were martyred.

What more shall I say? I have not time to tell of all the other heroes of faith of our time.¹

¹ Healy, M. (2016). [*Hebrews*](#) (P. S. Williamson & M. Healy, Eds.; pp. 255–256). Baker Academic: A Division of Baker Publishing Group.