

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1

*Now faith is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

This verse reminds me of my mother's faith that never wavered.

After my father died when I was just a child, Mom raised me, my two older sisters, and my younger brother. She did this during the 1950s and 60's when women did not have a place to be but at home in the kitchen. Dad did not leave us with much money. Mom had no job, or special skills, or education beyond high school. She took work as a waitress and as low-paid labor. These jobs paid less for women because men needed better wages to support their families. My mom no longer had a man's support. She found God's support.

She had faith in God. Life could work out despite losing a husband and later a son. She made a church life for herself and us holding firmly to her faith as the years passed by. She got on with the business of life. Her faith and church gave us all strength and a sense of belonging and purpose. My sisters and I all attained college educations, achieved professional jobs, and raised wonderful families. Mom was proof of a loving and living God and she was the evidence of things not seen. She taught me faith.

*Prayer:* Gracious God thank you for loving and providing for us. Help us to find and keep the faith to believe you are with us, and for us, and hear our concerns. Help us to remember to thank you for your peace and our blessings.

-Submitted by Nancee Salyer for the Twenty-ninth Reading of Lent.