

*John Duns Scotus (c. 1266–1308) is generally considered to be one of the three most important philosopher-theologians of the High Middle Ages. Scotus has considerable influence on both catholic and secular thought. Scotus also developed a complex argument for the existence of God, and argued for the Immaculate Conception of Mary.*



**First Reading:** (Wis 1:1-7) Love righteousness, you rulers of the earth, think of the Lord with uprightness, and seek him with sincerity of heart; because he is found by those who do not put him to the test, and manifests himself to those who do not distrust him. For perverse thoughts separate men from God, and when his power is tested, it convicts the foolish; because wisdom will not enter a deceitful soul, nor dwell in a body enslaved to sin. For a holy and disciplined spirit will flee from deceit, and will rise and depart from foolish thoughts, and will be ashamed at the approach of unrighteousness. For wisdom is a kindly spirit and will not free a blasphemer from the guilt of his words; because God is witness of his inmost feelings, and a true observer of his heart, and a hearer of his tongue. Because the Spirit of the Lord has filled the world, and that which holds all things together knows what is said

**Ps 138:1-10**

**R./ Lead me, O Lord, in the path of life eternal.**

**Gospel:** (Lk 17:1-6) Jesus said to his disciples, "Temptations to sin are sure to come; but woe to him by whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Take heed to yourselves; if your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, and says, 'I repent,' you must forgive him." The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" And the Lord said, "If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, 'Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

## REFLECTION

To cause scandal means to be an obstacle for somebody else's spiritual growth. It entails driving away the person from the right path, diverting his gaze away from God by being consciously of negative influences. Anyone who does this to the little ones attacks Jesus who identifies himself with the poor (Mt 25: 40.45). How far are we responsible of the roaming of others far away from God? Whenever we fuel hatred or refuse to see the inhumanity that is done, we cause scandal. Whenever we close our ears to the cry of the agonizing person, we are a stumbling block. When our charity grows cold and our heart love no more, we are flirting with the sin of scandal. In Luke faith can uproot trees, in Mathew and Mark faith can move mountains. As small as a mustard seed, **faith in Christ can help us uproot the tree of evil that sometimes grows shamelessly in our heart.** Lord, Increase our faith.