Q1. (Faith) In Luke 21:12-15, Jesus promised to give His followers wisdom in speaking to those who were persecuting His followers. Peter’s defense on Acts 4:7-8 exemplifies the effects of Jesus’ promise. How does this encourage you to be willing to speak up in defense of the faith?

Acts 4:7-8

7 They brought them into their presence and questioned them,   
“By what power or by what name have you done this?”

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, answered them

Luke 21:12, 14-15

12 They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to  
 prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name.

14 Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand,

15 for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless  
 to resist or refute.

Q2. (Hope) The Catechism tells us that the very name of Jesus means “God saves.” St Peter tells us that it is only through the name of Jesus that we are saved. What does it mean to a Catholic Christian to be “saved?”

Acts 4:12

12 There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven   
given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

CCC430

Jesus means in Hebrew: "God saves." At the annunciation, the angel Gabriel gave him the name Jesus as his proper name, which expresses both his identity and his mission. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, "will save his people from their sins" in Jesus, God recapitulates all of his history of salvation on behalf of men.

CCC431

Because sin is always an offence against God, only he can forgive it. For this reason Israel, becoming more and more aware of the universality of sin, will no longer be able to seek salvation except by invoking the name of the Redeemer God

CCC434

Jesus' Resurrection glorifies the name of the Savior God, for from that time on it is the name of Jesus that fully manifests the supreme power of the "name which is above every name".

Q3. (Love) We are often tempted to be silent when our faith or the faith of another is challenged. How can we be encouraged by the words of St. Peter to speak out and live as faithful witnesses to Our Lord?

Acts 4:18-19

18 So they called them back and ordered them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus.

19 Peter and John, however, said to them in reply, “Whether it is right in the sight of God for us to obey you rather than God, you be the judges.

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Peter and most of the Apostles were “uneducated” (V.13) fishermen, yet they boldly stood forth and proclaimed the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Sanhedrin such they the Sanhedrin was amazed at what they said. So it is with me. Although, unschooled in the faith, I believe that in a time of persecution the Holy Spirit would come to my aid and cause me to speak the words God wished spoken. It would be by the power of God and not by my own power.

At the Catholic Days at the Capitol, one of the ladies in our group, managed to catch the ear of a state senator as she walked toward the Senate chamber. This lady was empowered by the Holy Spirit to speak to the Senator about the issue of parental notification for minors seeking an abortion, to which the Senator was opposed to. When all others, had failed to get her attention, this one lady, boldly stood forth and the Senator listened. Although, in the end, she still did not support the issue.

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**It is only through the name of Jesus that God saves any human being from eternal destruction**. Jesus alone is the savior of the world and our only hope of salvation. To the Catholic, to be saved means to believe in Jesus as the Divine Savior of the world and to live a life reflecting that belief.

John 14:12

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father.

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We are always called to obey God even above the laws of men. We do not have to seek martyrdom, but we must always be obedient to God, no matter what the cost.