



**Sixth Sunday
of Easter**
Sara Mashburn

What has brought you hope in the past few weeks? Maybe it has been the irises flowering, a phone call from a dear friend, or getting news of the kind acts people have done even amidst this strange season.

In the readings today, there is a message of hope being found through the Holy Spirit. In the first reading, the early Christians show

us a model of asking to receive the Holy Spirit; they invited God in. The second reading shows us that a rightly-ordered life with Christ as Lord is a reason for hope, and in the Gospel reading, Jesus says He is giving us an Advocate to be with us always.

Understandably, our days look a lot different during this time of quarantine, and there is cause for hopelessness. However, if there is comfort to be found, it can be found in the words of our readings today. We have a Hope beyond the temporal nature of this season, and we are called to “cry out to God with joy” even in times of uncertainty. May the Advocate dwell within us always so that we can be vessels of hope, peace, and love to all we encounter.



Easter Reflections

St. Pius V Community

St. Louis

May 17 - 23, 2020



Sixth Monday of Easter

Maureen Fox

In today's Gospel (John 15:26 – 16:4) Jesus is preparing the Apostles for his return to Heaven and for the coming of the Paraclete, the Spirit of truth who will be sent from the Father. He states that the Spirit will bear witness to him, and that the Apostles should also bear witness, having been with him from the beginning.

I recall from a young age being taught the importance of demonstrating a good example for others, in other words bearing witness. We can follow our religious practices to the letter, as the Pharisees did, but neglect the Spirit of truth. Actions do speak louder than words, for instance when faced with hypocritical people espousing their ideas of faith, but

following up with faithless actions. It is one thing to say we love our fellow man and that we adore God, but failing to put those words into action renders them meaningless. A faithful Christian, following the example of Jesus and embracing the truths of the Holy Spirit, bears witness by not only talking the talk, but walking the walk as well.

Jesus warned the Apostles that they would encounter others who would reject and even kill them under the guise of serving God, though in actuality they would know neither the Father nor the Son. Without an understanding of the true nature and desires of God, the example of Jesus, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit, these persecutors were unable to recognize those who truly bore witness to the Divine. Thus, we must not only be willing to exemplify Christ in the world, but also to be open our eyes, ears, and hearts to others who do the same.

Sixth Tuesday of Easter

Ruth Eggering

The saying "what goes around comes around" seems to fit the message of the first reading today.

Paul and Silas were stripped beaten and thrown into jail. In order to assure they would not easily escape the jailer had them shackled and placed in a cell away from the door. The jailer had been charged to guard the two men securely. During the night there was an earthquake. The jailer fearing the worst was about to kill himself rather than receive treatment like that of Paul and Silas. Paul burst into the room saying all the prisoners are here. The jailer was so amazed he asked Paul "What must I do to be saved?"

Paul and Silas received care for their wounds and supper that night. An entire family came to have faith in God.

The pandemic has been a time when many of us have found ways to cheer on the doctors, nurses, aides, volunteers and first- responders for their heroic actions for our families, neighbors, friends. Sadly many dear family members friends and many others have died. This is an historic time, a creative time in which each of us has been asked to stay home. not even go to Mass on Sunday. In our not doing we are loving ourselves and our neighbor as Jesus asks us to do. We give to others as we have been so generously given by our God.





Sixth Wednesday of Easter

Patrick McCrudden

Today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles gives us an opportunity to reflect upon the unity of our human family. St. Paul, in one of the best examples of his preaching, is speaking to non-believers in the Greek city of Athens. In the verses preceding today's reading we hear that St. Paul was exasperated by the site of idols that he saw throughout the city. Rather than condemning the Athenians however, St. Paul begins by noting that they are a people searching for truth and even worshipping an unknown God. St. Paul then famously speaks these words: *"It is God who gives to everyone life and breath and everything. He made from one the whole human race to dwell on the entire surface of the earth....In him we live and move and have our being."* St. Paul's attitude is instructive. We must practice humility when we encounter persons different than ourselves; respecting them as one in whom God lives and moves, even if they seem different from ourselves. Also, we must focus on our unity as one human family in order to address the serious concerns that our world is facing. As Pope Francis recently commented the current crisis will help to remind us "once and for all, that humanity is a single community." The crisis will teach us that "universal kinship" is important and critical. With St. Paul and Pope Francis let us pray for our common human family and all who suffer today.

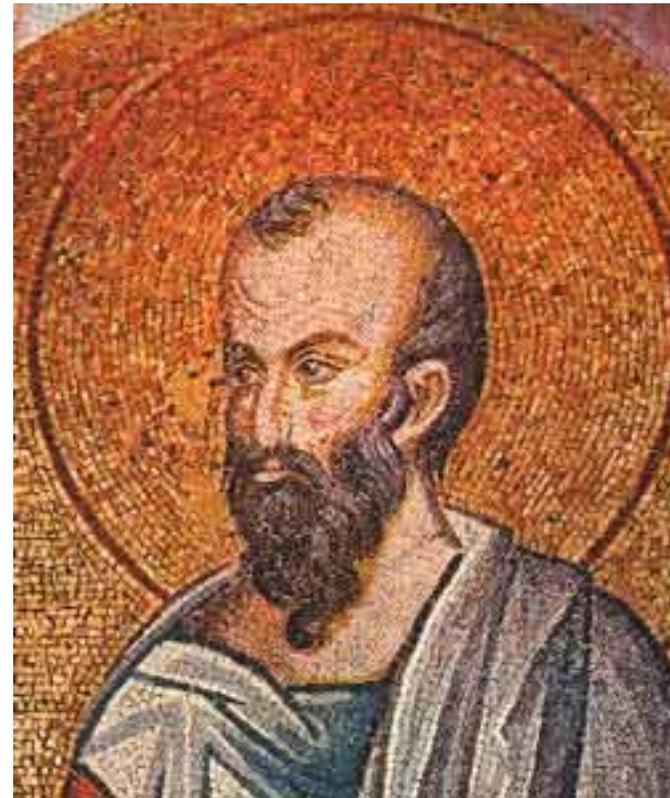
Sixth Thursday of Easter

Nini Mebrahtu

Paul's intention was to spread the gospel and in this he went to Corinth. There he stayed with Jewish friends who were kicked out of Rome by Claudius along with other Jews.

He worked with Aquila to basically show his gratitude for allowing him in his home. He carried on his mission spreading the word to other Jews in the community.

His message was received by some and condemned by others. Paul took this as a sign to focus the Lord's teaching with the gentiles. Only as they were more receptive, but in the end his message was accepted by some Jews as well as gentiles; solidifying his mission to the gospel.





St. Rita—patron of impossible causes, difficult marriages, and parenthood

Sixth Friday of Easter

Rita Martinez

When the disciples heard this they were astonished. 'Who can be saved, then?' they said. Jesus gazed at them. 'By human resources', he told them, 'this is impossible; for God everything is possible.

Mt 19:25-26

On May 22, 1457 Rita of Cascia passed away in Cascia, Italy. As I reflect on her feast day I'm reminded of my impossible transformation back to Catholicism. Her devotion and desire for reconciliation, especially her devotion to Jesus Christ gave her the fortitude to continually meet every challenge, every devastation which she encountered during her time in Italy. The strength, commitment and patience can be seen in the journey she had during her time on this earth. I'm reminded of my journey and how my own return was bore with strength, commitment and patience; not solely by me but by my mother who prayed to St. Rita (whom she named me after) to return to Christ. When my mother passed she gifted me a large statue of St. Rita, which while growing up was kept in my room and then later next to my mother in the living room. This statue now watches over my brothers who have passed and is a reminder to me of how prayer and devotion can overcome the impossible.

Sixth Saturday of Easter

Steve Ohmer

It has been forty(40) days since our Lord and Savior rose from the dead and broke the bonds of sin and set us free. Jesus is still always in our midst. His love, the Father's love, and the Spirit's love lives amongst us and within us and around us. As the Father sent his only son, Jesus, for our love, Jesus sends us for the love of all. The Spirit will guide us on our journey of love along with the love of the Father and Jesus. Jesus is with us always during our journeys and we need only ask to receive his abundant blessings which will rain down upon us. We merely must ask through sincere prayers, and our requests will be granted beyond our wildest imagination. In Jesus' words: "Do not be afraid - Go on speaking, and do not be silent, for I am with you. Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give to you. Ask and you will receive so that your joy may be complete." So, as we go forth on our journeys toward Pentacost and beyond, like Paul and Apollos, we must only trust in the Good Lord and welcome the love of the Father, of Jesus, and of the Spirit, which is the most special gift to us, in order to allow our love to grow within us and beyond to all. This love of God, by God and for God has been and will be our complete joy and shall be as a beacon of light for the whole world. Be not afraid and go on speaking in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



