

May 17, 2020 – 6th Sunday of Easter (A)

Reading 1 - Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and **proclaimed the Christ to them.** With one accord, the **crowds paid attention** to what was said by Philip when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing. For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice, came out of many possessed people, and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured. There was **great joy** in that city.

Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them **and they received the Holy Spirit.**

Remember, the people of Samaria were the “enemies” of the Jews.

Why is reaching out to those with whom we are uncomfortable a sign of God’s Kingdom?

In God’s Kingdom, is any person an “enemy”?

View the afflictions of the people with a wider view:

- in what ways are WE afflicted with unclean spirits
- or are WE paralyzed (unable to act)?

What healing do we need?

How have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit?

Reading 2 - 1st Peter 3: 15-18

Beloved: Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. **For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.**

For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit.

Imagine if we all “proclaimed Christ” with gentleness and compassion.

Using Jesus as an example, Peter holds up suffering as a means of finding unity with God and respect from others.

- What do you experience as a positive reaction to suffering?

In many ways, COVID 19 has brought suffering and in varied degrees.

- What positive things have you seen during this Pandemic?

Gospel - John 14: 15-21

Jesus said to his disciples:
“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,
the Spirit of truth, **whom the world cannot accept**,
because it neither sees nor knows him.
But you know him, because he remains with you,
and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.
In a little while the world will no longer see me,
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.
On that day you will realize that I am in my Father
and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them
is the one who loves me.
And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,
and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

What is the MOST essential
commandment of Christ?

What “truth” is the most difficult for the
world to accept?

One beautiful image of our relationship
with the Spirit is seeing ourselves as
“Temple of the Holy Spirit.

- In what ways do you shine as a
“Temple”?

Responsorial Psalm 66

R/ Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.

What joy have you experienced in Christ?

Do you believe that a sincere follower of
Christ will be a person of joy?