

Commentary on the Readings for May 7, 2023

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

The Readings for the Fifth Sunday of Easter have many themes. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss those that seem to stand out: **Faith, Trust and Action, or Service.**

In the **First Reading** from the ***Acts of the Apostles (6:1-7)***, we learn of how this "new Church" was growing so rapidly with new members that it created the need for additional workers to help the Apostles with the important but less liturgical functions of the community. So, after praying for guidance, the apostles chose and anointed men from the Greek-speaking converts (Hellenists) who were "filled with faith and the Holy Spirit" to help. Faith and the Holy Spirit are prime criteria for anyone who is truly inspired and committed to serve Christ through His Church. Putting our faith into action requires trust in the Holy Spirit that our abilities will measure up. It should not be a way of fulfilling our own needs.

The **Responsorial Psalm (33:1-19)** exemplifies the qualities of the Lord that place Him above all other powers, which should draw us to worship Him in "good times and bad." This takes a sincere commitment of faith that goes beyond natural understanding.

The **Second Reading**, from the ***First Letter of St. Peter (2:4-9)***, talks about building up the Church and likens each member to a precious stone needed to build the community. Of course, the most important of these is the keystone or cornerstone. Each and every member of our parish is needed to build and maintain our church. No one person can consider himself or herself as too insignificant or too unimportant to serve. Jesus Himself was rejected by the chief priest and rulers of the temple of His time, yet He became the Divine Head, the cornerstone of all Christianity.

In the **Gospel Reading**, from the ***Gospel of John (14:1-12)***, we hear how the Apostles are saddened by the news that Jesus will be leaving them soon. This obviously undermined their confidence and they became fearful. Jesus assures them that He will be watching over them even if he is not pre-sent. Again, this takes faith and commitment. What would be your feelings if you were among the Apostles during the night of the Last Supper?

Jesus is the divine head of the Church; therefore, the Church will live until the end of time. (***See Matt: 28:20***) Are you really a part of the Church? Remember, registration is only the first step to membership. It takes faith and commitment to be a member of Christ's Church; but most importantly, it takes active participation in its activities, liturgies as well as financial support to be a full-fledged member. Something to think about during your prayer time this week! **MFB**