

May 6, 2020  
Wednesday of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

**Acts 12:24-13:5**

**John 10:44-50**

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Ready Daily Readings
- Reflection from Fr. Brian Johnson
- Prayer and Challenge for the Day
- May Crowning Activities
- Sainly Superhero Article from CNA

Reflection Easter Week 4 Wednesday Acts 12:24-13:5 & John 10:44-50

***A mission within a mission!*** St Paul is on mission to the Gentiles preaching the gospel of Jesus' Kingdom of reconciliation to them, and he stumbles into another mission. If you are open to the Spirit, that can surely happen a lot. You begin one good work for God's glory and it opens into another work of blessing and then another work and on and on! Now, if you are like me, that can happen with our daily tasks too, but they may or may not be blessings from God! How many times do we start a job, think of another we can let piggyback on it and then maybe try to pick up a third one on the side for good measure (or as self-punishment?) Or does that happen because I just can't keep focused on the job at hand? Any way, Paul picks up another second mission to help the poor in Jerusalem as a result of hearing about the world famine especially striking hard the big city poor. We modern Catholic may have thought that only us fall prey to too many second collection envelopes at Church (another special envelope!) Maybe it has a scriptural foundation. I bet the Diocese likes to hear me say that. In Acts 11:29, we hear that "the disciples determined that, according to ability, each should send relief to the brothers who lived in Judea." So, this began the relief effort mission to raise funds and food for the famine victims in Jerusalem that we read about in today's first reading of Acts 12:25 "After Barnabas and Saul completed their relief mission..." Acts 11 reveals that this first charity relief effort was due to a severe famine. Yet, I imagine that shortly after this successful relief

effort, and realizing the eager generosity in the hearts of Christians, that regular special charity collections were started. In Galatians 2:10 we hear Paul talk about a conference he attended once with Peter, James & John in which the leaders of the Church put it upon Paul to think of charity efforts, saying they directed him to *“be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.”* Paul mentions such charity or multiple collections for the same cause of being for “the poor in Jerusalem.” We might ask about why there seems to be a preference for the poor in the city of Jerusalem, without naming the poor in other cities. Is it because of a bias from the persons (Jerusalemites) requesting it, or because of the metropolitan size of the city that simply makes its needs more pressing (big city poor)? Yet a possibility with this special collection, that may be forgotten from the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles, relates to the needed support that may be called for about the ‘communal living’ experiment begun in Jerusalem (Acts 2:44,4:32,& 34–35) or the ‘daily food distribution’ that led to the invention of a deacons’ ministry (Acts 6:1). Some people have thought of this commune experiment as a type of religious order living under a vow of poverty or as a religious fellowship of ‘dependents’ awaiting the Lord’s second coming. Regardless of who the collections were specifically for, they were motivated by an impulse of charity imitating Jesus who honored the poor, feeding the hungry and welcoming the homeless into community. So, Paul enters into a mission within his mission, and I like that he added that ‘he was eager to remember the poor’! Being inspired by his example and imitating him as he imitates Christ (1 Corinthians 11:1), we also have love for the poor and reach out to them any and every way we can. May we be as eager as Paul to serve others and take up missions within missions as the Holy Spirit may lead us!

### **Prayer for the Day:**

Live simply so that others can simply live. It is said that Mother Teresa preached that call to simplicity for us to practice in our living habits. So may we pray for a ‘simpler way’ to live: Heavenly Father, thank you for being everywhere with us, your people. Thank you for never leaving us to journey alone. Help us to always be grateful for what we have, to remember that we don’t need most of what we want, and that your joy is found in simplicity and generosity. We thank you that You are able to do much, much more than we can even ask or imagine. We rest in Your power, not in our accumulated possessions and as we yield to Your will, we know You will provide for us and work in us to give to others what they need from You as You desire. Amen.

### **Challenge for the Day:**

Set a single task of serving someone else, or meeting a need for someone (maybe anonymously!) as the most pressing mission today and watch to see if the Holy Spirit opens up another and even more blessed project for you within that first mission! Wouldn't that be a powerful witness of God's work in us? But only God will know (or us afterward)!

## **May Crowning Activities**

By Jared Dees, *The Religion Teacher*

May is the month of Mary and one of the most popular activities to venerate the Mother of God during this month is to participate in a May crowning ceremony. Jared Dees put together this collection of activities ideas from around the web to prepare students and families for a May crowning or to organize your own little ceremony at home.

## **May Crowning Activities**

### **Saintly Hero Article**

From *Catholic News Agency*

**Saintly superhero: When Marvel Comics told the life story of John Paul II**

*Marvel Comics:*  
*"The Life of*  
*Pope John Paul II"*

