

May 21, 2020  
Thursday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

**Acts 18:1-8**

**John 16:6-20**

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Read Today's Readings
- Gospel Reflection from Fr. Brian Johnson
- Prayer and Challenge for the Day
- Fr. Brian's Letter to Parishioners
- Public Celebration of Mass began May 20<sup>th</sup>. Please follow the link below for general information.
- Question(s) of the Week

Easter Week 6 Thursday Reflection Acts 18:1-8 & John 16:6-20

Moving to a new area and looking for work, a person used to visit a local union hall to catch up on work opportunities, and build connections through past employment contacts. It looks like this is what Paul does at different times when he visits a new city. Today, after arriving in Corinth, he meets up with some fellow 'tentmakers' Aquila and Priscilla. He even goes to work with them (Acts 18:3). Acts 18:5 mentions that when Silas and Timothy join him in Corinth, it was only then that he "began to occupy himself **totally** with preaching the word.." So for a while, Paul must have been only part-time preaching or balancing a schedule of work and ministry. In 1 Corinthians 4:12, Paul mentions his trade saying, "and we toil, working with our own hands". And in 2 Thessalonians 3:8, Paul says that "in toil and drudgery, night and day we worked, so as not to burden any of you." Paul was doing some tradecraft on the side, to financially help his mission and to benefit the churches he was serving at the time. He reminds me here of the movement started back in the 1950's called the French Worker Priests. These reformist Worker-Priests lived out their holy orders sacramentally, yet also were employed in various industrial and manufacturing plants and active in labor unions. They witnessed to living a sacrificial life of 'intentional discipleship' in the midst of normal workaday challenges and labor issues in plants and shops. Their appreciation of parishioners' living faith and domestic concerns proved to make their own preaching so much more credible and responsive to people's troubles and struggles. For a time Karol Wojtyla (St John Paul II), studied with some worker priests and admired their dedication to both daily work and faith evangelization. This is a creative model of ministry much like the current Catholic Worker houses, that were inspired

by the social activist Dorothy Day. These religious houses are common living arrangements for committed disciples that serve in ministry together yet also have their own independent occupations. Hearing about Paul living with Aquila and Priscilla (and maybe other Christian friends) sounds just like a first century 'Catholic Worker House'!

To me, Paul is always worth studying because he does the best with what he has, and always seems open to opportunities that he might or might not have considered before. Like Philip in Acts chapter 8 (especially vss 5, 26, 29, 39) who was so open to the Spirit's lead, and was moved around so much by the Holy Spirit, Paul seems to move widely and turn on a dime at times to follow the Spirit's lead. In 1 Corinthians 15: 10, Paul tells us, "by the grace of God I am what I am". Sometimes he seems to make two steps forward three backward and only one again forward, but he keeps serving Christ in the ministry. Today's reading tells us that when he was reviled and opposed in the synagogue, he shakes the dust from his feet (follows Jesus example-Matt 10:14) and moves on. Acts 18:7 has him start preaching in a 'house church' belonging to Titus Justus next door to the synagogue he just left (?). The Spirit led him there and he formed a dynamic Christian community in this 'home church'. But the Spirit wasn't done bearing fruit in Paul's life or in that 'rejectionist' synagogue, because in Acts 18:8 we learn that the 'synagogue official' heard Paul, became a believer and his whole household converts, along with "many of the Corinthians who heard, believed and were baptized." So if asked whether he was bearing fruit or not in ministry, Paul could testify that what looked like a crop failure turned out only to be a setting up for a greater harvest! Paul has this happen time and time again. Don't ever count the Spirit out, as He may only be laying back to bring in the real results!

**Prayer for the Day:** God and Father, thank you for giving me the singular desire to seek you with my whole heart to always serve and please You. Keep showing me the way. Grant Your clarity in my vision, and make the complex simple for me. Encourage and embolden me to step out in faith with you, and to hear only your voice, not being distracted by the many other voices in the world. Help me to never grow weary seeking you and serving you. Allow me to know that your Spirit will lead me wherever you wish me to serve, and will equip me to serve as best I can for your glory and your results. May I not be pulled away or apart from You by my own ideas or goals, but in all things feel Christ more and more in my prayer and practice of works for you, In His Name I pray. Amen.

**Challenge for the Day:**

St Paul was kicked out of the synagogue and went next door and heaven opened up to him! Sometimes we have to step outside and go for a walk (doesn't have to be far!) to see God's new plan. Like taking a break from a problem on paper or in the book, consider taking a moment to walk in your yard or down the sidewalk, or to a park. Try walking a route today (safely, of course) that you haven't walked recently. Some new grace will come!

## **Letter to Parishioners**

Fr. Brian Johnson has written a letter to all our parishioners about returning to Mass. This letter outlines adjustments and adaptations we

will need to follow during Mass. We look forward to seeing everyone.

However, if you have any reservations about attending public Mass, please stay at home, and, if possible, watch the Mass via our Facebook Live feed or another source available on television.

Please click on the link below to read Fr. Brian Johnson's letter to the parishioners:

## **Letter to Parishioners**

## **Returning to Public Mass**

Bishop Medley has released a statement about the Diocese of Owensboro returning to public Mass. St. Pius X Parish in Calvert City and St. Anthony of Padua in Grand Rivers began to have public Mass on Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 8:00am.

Please be patient as parish staff and volunteers prepare the church in accordance to the Bishop's guidelines. Please read or view Bishop Medley's announcement from our Diocese's website:

## **Returning to Public Mass** **Announcement**

## **Question(s) for the Week**

Will you be attending Mass this week?

If so, when will you likely attend?

Please use the comment section below  
to send in your answer.

Thank you!!