

May 23, 2020
Saturday of the 6th Week of Easter
Acts 18:9-18
John 16:20-23

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 20th. Please follow the link below for general information.
- Question(s) of the Week

Easter Week 6 Saturday Reflection Acts 18:23-28 & John 16:22-28

Thank God for helpers and friends along the way! Faith in Christ includes a type of 'spiritual buddy system' that helps us keep accountable to one another and stay on the 'Way' as we move along in mission. I think of how Jesus sent out his disciples, two by two (Luke 10:1). Today we see such a mutual system of supportive oversight in ministry when Aquila and Priscilla listen to Apollos preach and want to offer some positive constructive help. Apollos is brilliant and eloquent about his presentations, but it must be that some of his teaching needs some doctrinal clarification. Maybe he was only recently baptized and new to the Way. Acts 18:26 says, "Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the Way of God more accurately." So, just as every preacher can have his/her message dressed up to be clearer and more effective, so Apollos also needed a little fine tuning in his gospel teaching. I think of all 'preaching' like that. I love to listen to other preachers because it makes me reflect on what and how I may say something from the ambo pulpit. For sure though, each preacher has his/her own idiosyncrasies, and some can be worked on and some not. It may come down to simply accepting his/her own 'style', and when it is stifled, the preacher disappears. I joke a lot about talking with my hands. Tie them behind my back and I go mute. I just pray they are not too distracting to listeners. But really, everyone can improve. I am always looking for new ideas or ways of presenting the message of Christ. I mentioned one weakness of mine a week ago, (and then probably a couple of weeks before that?) about how I can be like a rigid cow that sticks to its same paths coming down the hill to pasture. I can fall into the same ruts or lanes of interpretation and give the same message over and over. I keep sensitive to it, and try not to.

Sometimes I just stop talking when I think I am turning on the same lane again. But again, feel free to let me know, I always look for new material and ways to present the good news! I try not to get in the way of His message, but God help me!

So, in today's reading, Apollos gets a little 'toastmasters' help from his Christian friends Aquila and Priscilla. I bet all of the apostle pairs helped each other to work bettering their presentations (maybe even tag-team preached). James & John, Peter & Andrew, John & Peter, Paul & Barnabas, Silas & Paul (Maybe not Mark and Paul, as they fell out-Acts 15:36-41). It was said that no one knew scripture (the Hebrew Prophets and Law of Moses) better than Apollos. I am not sure that what Acts 18:24 says of Apollos is said about any other Christian in the New Testament, that he "was an authority on the scriptures". He sounds like the first century version of the great St Jerome. Apollos was from Alexandria, the home to what is called the greatest library of all time! But anyway, Paul and Apollos even work together and collaborate in ministry. Paul is so good to always highlight that each believer has different gifts, but that all the gifts of everyone are needed for the glory of Christ. God endows each believer with special gifts for the building up of the whole body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:5-10). So we all need each other. Apollos needs Aquila and Priscilla. In 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, Paul describes how God works through each person differently but together, to accomplish His will. He says, *"What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? But, servants through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth"*. We each are only a part (but a necessary part), and God uses us together to complete His work. Again, we need each other for His glory. Thanks be to God.

Prayer for the Day:

Dear Savior Jesus, I pray that all the members of your holy body, be filled with the full knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom, with insight into your purposes; that they walk, live and conduct themselves in a manner worthy of you Lord: fully pleasing to you in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing in knowledge of you. I thank you for allowing me to be a member and part of your mystery of service. Invigorate and strengthen us with all power needed to glorify you, and to exercise every kind of endurance and patience with joy. Amy we always give you thanks who have qualified and made us fit to share this portion of the inheritance of the saints. It is your delight to see us standing shoulder to shoulder in orderly array, with firmness and steadfastness of faith in you. Help us to support one another in serving you and lead us to show your tender-hearted pity and mercy with everyone, always quick to share kind feeling, and your gentle ways of patience, having the power to endure whatever comes. Keep us always ready to forgive one another and continue in the work of your kingdom, Amen.

Challenge for the Day:

We rely on others so often every day, we may not realize it. Take a moment to count how many people you depend on each day. We all need others and may take them for granted. Thank God for those you depend on, and subtly thank them too.

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!!