

May 22, 2020
Friday 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 Friday Reflection Acts 18:9-18 & John 16:20-23

It's not my problem! This is what Gallio the Roman proconsul says about the controversy and court case that the Jewish leaders have dredged up against Paul. Gallio says, "I do not wish to be a judge of such matters" since he sees it as an internal religious argument over doctrine and titles (Acts 18:15). A couple of weeks ago I mentioned that a great study of parallels can be made by setting the gospels alongside the Acts of the Apostles to compare how very similar things occur to both Jesus and His followers after him. Today provides one such parallel similarity. Gallio's treatment of the 'fictitious' case brought against Paul sounds a lot like how Pilate handled the 'false' case against Jesus. Back with Jesus, Pilate said in Luke 23:14 "I have conducted my investigation and have not found this man guilty of the charges you have brought against him". Then in John 18:31, Pilate even said, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." Doesn't that sound exactly like what Gallio said above, dismissing the case with the words, "I am not going to judge in these matters." In both situations, the Roman judge realized that charge is not a civil matter of Roman Law. It is a religious dispute about practices or teachings. As if Gallio knows how contentious and riled up people can get over religious questions, he even 'drives them away from the tribunal' (Acts 18:16). But it's not over!

Then, ***It's not my fault!*** This is what poor Sosthenes is saying! He is pounced on and beaten by the frustrated crowd because they did not get their way and a conviction of Paul (Acts 18:17). This is why bully mobs are so dangerous, because they can turn on anyone, and this mob takes its anger out on Sosthenes. Paul mentions a fellow minister named Sosthenes

(unique name) in his opening line of 1 Corinthians, so we assume he is a fellow Christian minister with Paul. He shares beatings and persecutions with Paul! He can commiserate with Paul about their war wounds and scars received for Christ! I like to describe Sosthenes as the patron saint of people who suffer because of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. He could say, "I was just standing there and next thing you know, the crowd was all over me." But note that Gallio enters the picture again with his 'not my problem' attitude because Acts 18:17 says "none of this was of concern to Gallio". One would think such a 'disturbance of the peace' would concern him, but Gallio sounds like the typical politician that just does enough to stay in office (CYS), not ever risking their office for good principle. Sosthenes, though, does remind us that when we follow Christ we have to be ready for sacrifice with Him at any moment. Christ acknowledges us and our offering when we acknowledge Him, as Jesus says in Mark 10:29-30 "there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake..... who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age." Or 2 Timothy 2:12 says, "if we endure with Him, we will also reign with him." So, while we may be asked to sacrifice or suffer for and with Jesus, He will take care of us, restoring our health and peace. Whenever we feel that we are being drawn up in some other Christian's witness and being made to suffer with them, we can think of being right alongside Sosthenes in that crowd.

Prayer for the Day:

O God, grant that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of OUR land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions may be healed, and we live in justice and peace. Since you have created us in your own image: strengthen us to fearlessly contend against evil and to accept no oppression. Teach us to reverently use our freedom, and help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice, right and due process for everyone in our communities, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Challenge for the Day:

When was the last time we were dragged into somebody else's work or pain, without intending to? Did we help out willingly and see it as an opportunity to carry Christ's cross with him/her? Sosthenes did, giving in for Paul (taking Paul's licks for him) in today's reading. (Now Paul did also for many other people, but this particular day it looks like Paul owes Sosthenes one-but Christians don't count sacrifices, do we?)

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!!