

May 25, 2020
Monday of the 7th Week of Easter

Acts 19:1-8

John 16:29-33



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
- Message from Bishop Medley: Public Celebration of Mass began May 20th.

Easter Week 7 Monday Reflection Acts 19:1-8 & John 16:29-33

We hear in Acts 1:14, about the first disciples being "devoted themselves **with one accord** to prayer, together...." Also, in Acts 15:25, we hear about the disciples acting "**with one accord** deciding to choose representatives and send them to you..." Of course, the Holy Spirit

brings such unity about in the Body of Christ. There was overriding unity within the People of God. How else are we still here today as Church? But to say that there was unity and accord doesn't mean that there was never tension and diversity. Two quick mentions about existing tense problems in the Church that pulled at its seams could include events we have already heard about in our Easter series of Acts readings (the dispute over the neglected Greek Widows in Acts 6 and the relaxing the requirement of circumcision for salvation in Acts 15). Any active and moving body is going to have growing pains. Yet, the Holy Spirit holds the Church together. Jesus said in John 14:16 that he 'will send you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever.' And 1 Corinthians 6:17 says that "whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him." The purpose of this gift and union is to stay united to Christ with other believers. Yet at times, apparently different practices or customs grew up and coexisted at least for a time before being consolidated into an agreed upon apostolic tradition. We see such diverse practices in today's reading about different baptisms in the Church. In Acts 19, verses 4, 5, & 6 seem to talk about three different baptisms. Verse 4 mentions John the Baptist's preparatory baptism of repentance received by a person looking to accept Jesus later. Verse 5 mentions a simple claim of clinging to the Lord Jesus in baptism, and then verse 6 mentions an additional laying on of hands that confers an immersion in the life of the Holy Spirit. Is there one baptism or three baptisms? As we state every Sunday in our profession of Faith (Nicene Creed) 'I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins'. Yet, obviously, in the early church the traditional 'one' had not been settled upon, and so there were various prayers and formulas being used. This diversity may be what is behind Paul's comments about tension regarding who baptized who. In 1 Corinthians 1:12-13 Paul addresses disunity and calls out factions (some claim him to be divisive) "each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ".....were you baptized in the name of Paul?" Of course, a baptism in Paul's name means nothing for salvation. But it takes time and the Holy Spirit to guide the apostles to make the practice of baptism uniform and consistent for all Christians. For universal baptism, the church looked to the exact words of command from Jesus in Matthew 28:19 to baptize in "*the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit.*" It is the Spirit drives the Church to formulate and teach such reliable unity and we see a concern for respecting apostolic traditions in such quotes from the later new testament letters such as in Timothy and Titus. For example, in 1 Timothy 1:15 "***This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.***" No question about preaching that solid Tradition to unite all Christians! This or very similar phrases indicating a unifying doctrine and practice can also be found in 1 Timothy 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim 2:11 & Titus 3:8. I have mentioned such early church documents written just immediately after the last of the scriptures even, that were like first catechisms summarizing the teachings of Christ from the bible itself (like the Didache, or the Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus, or even in the Apostles' Creed itself). So, unity is maintained and it is the Holy Spirit that brings it together in Christ's Name and holds it together. I like St John XXIII's call to keep union in & with the Church by practicing 'In essentials, unity; in non-essentials liberty; and in all things, charity' (from his first papal encyclical, Ad Petri Cathedram 1959). The unifying Spirit of Jesus prevails over all division and discord, as He Himself tells us in today's gospel, "that ***you might have peace in me.*** In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

Prayer for the Day:

Prayer of Consecration to the Holy Ghost --On my knees, before the great multitude of heavenly witnesses, I offer myself, soul and body, to You O Eternal Spirit of God. I adore the clear brightness of Your purity, the inerrant precision of Your justice and the might of Your love. Be the Strength and Light of my soul. In You I live and move and am. I desire never to grieve You by unfaithfulness, and I pray with all my heart to be kept from even the smallest sin against You. Mercifully guard my every thought and grant that I may always watch for Your light and listen to Your voice, always following Your inspirations. Holding to the pierced feet of Jesus and looking at His five Wounds, I trust in His Precious Blood and adore His opened side and stricken Heart for all of us sinners. Adorable Spirit and Helper of my infirmity, keep me in Your care and hold me in union with all humble Christian Souls, giving me courage to always and everywhere be open to Your renewing presence and direction, Amen.

Challenge for the Day:

How hard it is to be of 'one accord' and work for unity in a broken, divided world! Today, try to make every word and every deed today unifying (helpful & constructive). It might mean 'heroic sacrifice', but pray for grace and give it your best!

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 has started 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](#)