

May 10, 2020
Saturday of the 4th Week of Easter
Acts 6:1-7
John 14:1-12

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Happy Mother's Day
- Mass at 9:30am via Facebook Live
- Sunday Mass Homily
- Children's Bulletin/Activity Pages

St Pius-St Anthony Homily 5th Sunday Easter Year A

Philip, the apostle, has what I call a 'Thomas' or 'Martha' Moment today. A couple weeks back on Divine Mercy Sunday when Thomas made his doubts public, I suggested that Jesus thought, "Thomas, Thomas", much as Jesus had said 'Martha, Martha' (Lk 10:41) when she was overstrung about the house & kitchen maintenance duties that day in Bethany. So today, Philip joins their club of demanding details from Jesus about the Father, he says, "Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us" (Jn 14:8). Of course, keep in mind that Jesus had just given an assurance of well-being and that things were going to work out (*even though it may not at all seem like it*); He had told them, 'Don't let your hearts be troubled' (from Jn 14:1 on...) 'There is much room in the Father's house, I will go for you & prepare, then come back & take you, with me....)

Why these words that he spoke to calm and comfort them, are so important, is that Jesus says them at the Last Supper. Imagine again, what is about to happen: Jesus' arrest, terroristic torture and targeted killing by crucifixion. Talk about Extinction Level Event, or a Project Mayhem—this is such a blow and shock to the Apostles' System. So Jesus is prepping them by saying, "I and the Father are one on this" Remember, all will be well, this will work out.

But Philip wants to know more....even though Jesus is (as always) teaching faith, Philip is not quite up, to today's lesson. Faith is trusting without having to have all the details. When it comes to uniting our lives to Jesus', there is not a guarantee fall-back of a prenuptial contract. No, we trust Him and go along. Faith

operates on a 'need to know' basis, & Jesus will give the more as more is needed in the work, not just by our demand or desire.

But I am very sympathetic to Philip, though, (with him saying, 'show me') because I am *that type of learner-student* that needs to see the steps, or always asks for a demonstration: what we used to call 'hands-on learning' or 'on the job training', like apprenticing where you could shadow a boss, walking through the job's steps that this task follows that one and the next one until finished. For example, I say a lot after being tossed a new idea to implement, I will say back to the person, "Okay that sounds good, so we do that, help me see more What does ***that*** look like? Describe to me how ***that*** is going to play out (next following next).

Recently, my brother sent me a great cartoon that has a little kid in a school desk, being given a test sheet and teacher announces, "Here's the quiz: Solve these math problems and be sure to show your work" and the next window box shows a close-up of his turned-in test, where he has only written down final numbers and then he had drawn a picture of himself with pencil in hand going at it with tongue sticking out, biting on his tongue (hard at work!) So he drew himself, showed himself doing work. This 'Show me' (attitude) I think that is Philip, as he says, "Just show me the Father-God-Reveal Him, and I'm good"

Don't we all relate to that? Show me, Lord. Walk me through it. I sure do, as I love to watch workers, doing repair jobs and fixing things. I learn so much just watching; I realize 'Oh, that is why you do that first, make sure you turn off unit, before opening the panel'. I am the type person that most maintenance-worker folks or repairmen don't like to be around. I mean I call the plumber and then say, 'If time is a problem, I'll help. I'd love to (I'll carry the equipment-material). I don't want to cut into your pay, I just want to learn how myself." I was once told by an HVAC technician (it was all friendly of course, I know him well), but he said, 'I got to tell you, you are the kind of customer I have two different service fee scales, two prices to give you. *The first price will be the cost if you are in there with me, and then the cheaper price will be if you leave me alone to work.*" I said, "I get it, who wants to be stopped and asked questions all along the way, like why did you move that wire, what is that meter-tool measuring" Or this is like a mechanic I had when I was teenager, who would say, 'The minute the car breaks down bring it to me, its going to be cheaper that way, don't take it apart yourself." I'd said to him, "You should be happy, I go to massing with it, that makes you more money!" But like Philip today, in those cases, I am saying, "Show me the Father, that's enough."

But for Philip, for me and for all of us, faith isn't that Way. Faith is acting, but without knowing exactly how it will work out, or where it is heading each

step. Faith is doing something, but just not with the minute detail given of completely planning out every second's act. Faith is like us holding a hand in the dark. Or us staying close to a voice we know, repeating to ourselves and following as closely as possible to the last directions given. Again, that is why these Last Supper Words of Comfort and Calm are recorded, remembered and recalled so often by the disciples. They call for faith and trust from Jesus' disciples.

Jesus told Philip "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). He is saying, "You see me, You see the Father." He means 'Look at my life & what all I say-what all I do, this is the Father, in me you see what it means to live in/under the Father's House.' Jesus actually says in 14:10-11 "The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves." And this is where we current disciples come in: We can all be Philip at times demanding more details, but the world is full of Philips, who look to us and demand: "Show us the Father- or Show us Jesus". You claim to know God, help us know Him. Show Him. And if God so loved the world,.....then show us Him and how much you love 'this world'. I hope we can show our 'work'. An Early Christian named Tertullian wrote in his work about Church Life, titled the 'Apology'-(aka *Defense of Faith*) (chp 39, sect. 7) that the Roman world said among itself, "Look, how the Christians love one another and how they are ready to die for each other' (for they themselves are readier to kill each other). That faithful a following of Christ, made an impression. A powerful demonstration. They 'showed' Jesus to the world, and so should we. 1 John 4: 12 says "No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is perfected in us." If that happens, it is Jesus that does that, Jesus in us all showing/opening the Father's House., to a world 'looking' wanting to be 'shown'.



“Dear mothers: thank you!
Thank you for what you are in
your family and for what you give
to the Church and the world”.

–Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia



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Children's Bulletin/Activity Pages

Here is the Children's Bulletin full of activities about today's Gospel.

