

May 18, 2020
Monday of the 6th Week of Easter

Acts 16:11-15
John 15:26 – 16:4

Today's Activities & Tasks

- Read Today's Readings
- Gospel Reflection from Fr. Brian Johnson
- Prayer and Challenge for the Day
- S.L.I.M. Award Recipient
- Public Celebration of Mass will begin May 20th. Please follow the link below for general information. More details about our parish will be published soon.
- Children's Sunday Bulletin

Easter Week 6 Monday Reflection Acts 16:11-15 & John 15:26-16:4

"A Place of Prayer" Paul and his fellow missionaries are looking for a place of prayer. Acts 16:13 says, "On the sabbath we went *outside the city gate along the river* where we thought there would be a place of prayer." Keeping Holy the Sabbath, means finding a suitable place to praise God and enjoying the leisure of God's presence. For Paul's company it turns out that their prayer meeting has the backdrop music of flowing water and other riverside sounds with their reading of the Law & Prophets and singing of psalms. Maybe Philippi didn't have a synagogue or Paul may have been run out of the synagogue. But, the Spirit always provides an opening, so they find a place outside the city walls along the river. This scene reminds me of Jesus finding a place of rest beside a water well in John chapter 4. An interesting note about what is the proper place to worship God, John 4:21 says, "the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem". John 4:23 explains that true worship of God is 'in Spirit and in Truth'. Yet, another similarity between Paul and his river and Jesus and His well, is that a great dialogue of evangelization takes place in both places, resulting in a lifechanging conversion. We have the conversational words between Jesus and the woman at the well. We don't have Paul and Lydia's exchange, but we know that Lydia listened intently to Paul's words about Jesus. Certainly, Paul entered into a fruitful and engaging dialogue with Lydia as her interest in Jesus and prophecies escalated to the point of her and her whole household being baptized (Acts 16:15). A good tip for fruitful evangelization is to find common ground to start with and then share the gospel as it relates to what is already shared in

common. Paul does that with Lydia. They both have similar work backgrounds. He is a tentmaker by trade (why he also grows so close to Aquila and Priscilla in Acts 18:3), so he knows a lot about cloth, and Lydia happens to be a 'dealer in purple cloth' (Acts 16:13). I am sure they have a lot to talk about from their life and work experience. Paul and his company end up staying at Lydia's home and it may be that her home becomes a 'house church' in Philippi (Acts 16:40). These house churches become more prominent as the Christians are ejected more and more from synagogues. In Romans 16:3,5 we hear "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus...greet also the church at their house". The house of Mary is referred to as a place of prayer in Acts 12:12, and we learned from the beginning in Acts 2:46, that the Christians met in homes to pray and 'break bread'. God always provides a way through or around our human obstacles to His will.

Speaking of obstacles, this reading brings up the issue of Lydia's whole household being baptized. 'Whole household' seems to be such an inclusive description that children, resident in-laws and all live-ins would be included. This sounds like the practice of 'infant baptism' to me. If the Church of the Apostles baptized infants, then there we have it. We see multiple cases of such 'household baptisms': of Cornelius in Acts 10:47 & 11:14, Lydia here in Acts 16:15, a Philippian jailor in Acts 16:33-34, and Stephanas in 1 Corinthians 1:16. Of course, in our Catholic Tradition of infant baptism, we fully recognize the role of parents in establishing the faith atmosphere of the home and their commitment to raise children to develop relationship to Christ. The parent choosing the faith of the child is no different than them also exercising their responsibility in selecting their child's school, medical doctor and other formative influences. Yet, I have always felt about the question of infant baptism, "Why not?" Why deny your child the blessing and grace of such initiating relationship to Christ, through baptismal fellowship with other believers? About baptizing a child or not, I think of the Ethiopian Eunuch's great presumption in favor of grace, when he says, "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). Someone reminded me once, that in the great commission of Matthew 28:19 Jesus said, "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them....." without including an age restriction.

Prayer for the Day:

God of All Devotion, it is hard for us to understand everything that our missionaries throughout the world suffer through in witnessing to you. Many times, the lack of fruit in their labors can cause discouragement. Their discouragement and persecution can lead to self-doubt. I pray that as they face these discouraging moments, that You strengthen them in their ministries. Grant them peace to wait for Your timing and wisdom for reaching the lost.

What they truly need from us is to for our continued prayer support. Your Word speaks much about how You bless Your children, and it is on those promises that I offer my prayer today. I am asking that Your Spirit spread across our globe and bless every missionary with what they need this day. Amen.

Challenge for the Day:

Pray for the persecuted missionary and express thanksgiving to God for such witnesses and martyrs even today in world. Offer a little act of sacrifice or self-denial to feel some solidarity with them.

S.L.I.M. Award

(Servant Leader In Ministry)

Congratulations to Case Thomason for receiving the S.L.I.M. Award from the Diocese!

Case is one of our students graduating from high school this week. He has attended our Faith Formation for the Youth program and is a member of our Youth Group. Case is very involved at school and has been very active in our parish. He is a Lector, Mass Server, helped with community projects and has attended many youth retreats. Case will be attending Murray State in the Fall and has plans to attend law school in the future.

Case will become an Eagle Scout soon. His final Eagle Scout project was the creation of the Rosary Walk near the parish's playground. The Rosary Walk will be dedicated and blessed very soon.

Case always has a smile and has a very positive attitude!
He is a blessing to our parish!

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 will have public Mass starting Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 8:00am. At St. Anthony of Padua parish public Mass will begin at 9:00am on Wednesday, May 20, 2020.

More information will be given to our parishioners in the next few days. Information will be emailed to you, posted on our Facebook page and added to our parish's website.

Parishioners without email will be contacted via phone call.

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**

Children's Bulletin

Here is the [Children's Bulletin](#) for the 6th Sunday of Easter. These activity pages are fun for children of all ages!