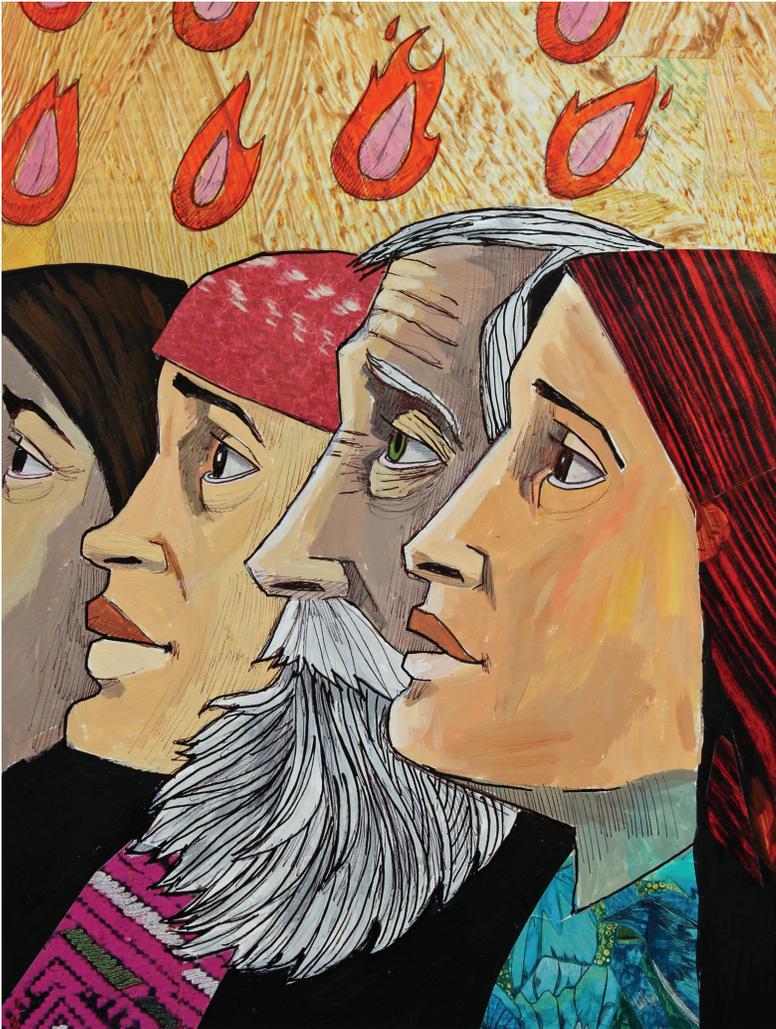


SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



Prayer to Nourish Relationships

God of all,
you have enriched us with a nation filled
with people of many cultures.
Help us to love with no partiality,
reaching out in friendship
to all of your children.

Guide us to know the blessings
that each person we meet
may bring to our lives.
May we welcome and nourish
relationships from the diversity
in our midst and remain in your love
through our love of one another.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

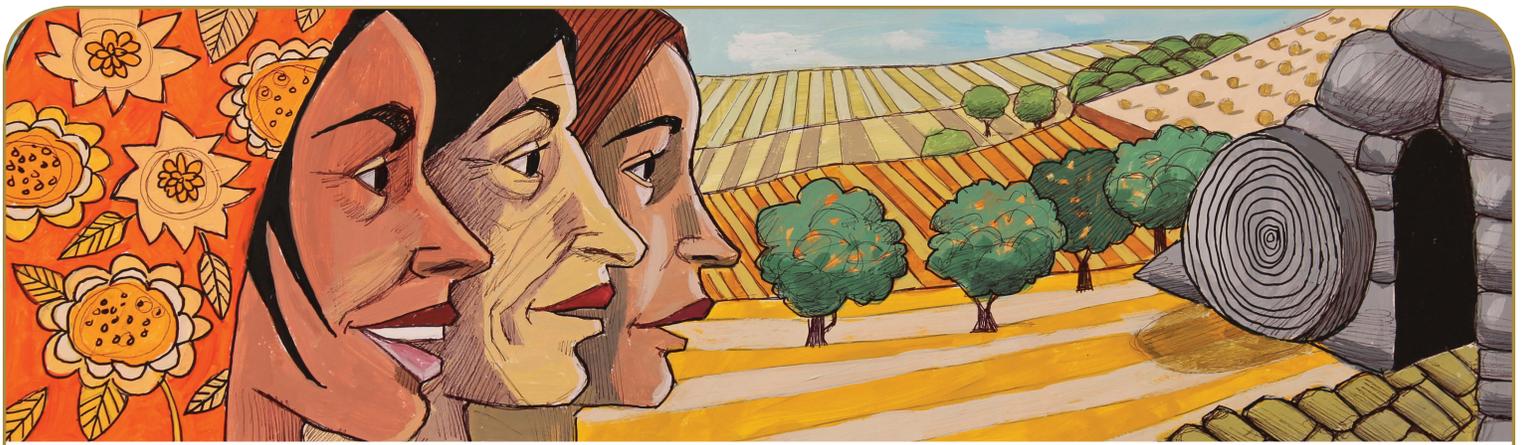
Sunday, May 10, 2015 God Shows No Partiality

Today's Readings: Acts 10:25–26, 34–35, 44–48; Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4 (2b); 1 John 4:7–10; John 15:9–17. Today's First Reading may help us examine how we sometimes do not value those that God values. Peter had thought that the covenant extended only to Jews, but at this meeting with the Gentile Cornelius, he understands that "God shows no partiality." Since the gifts of the Holy Spirit are poured over the Gentiles, it became apparent that the waters of Baptism should not be withheld. Considering this reading, we might want to examine ours and our parish's attitudes toward others. Do we recognize the gifts of those who are unlike us? Are we hospitable to all or do we show partiality? Does the leadership in the parish reflect the diversity of the community?

Understanding that God regards no one with partiality may help us comprehend how we are to love. In the Second

Reading, we see that God sent his Son for all of us, not just those we consider worthy. Do we approach every person as though God died so that he or she might have life through Christ?

If God shows no partiality, it is obvious that we should love everyone without reserve. Christ's command, the Gospel from John tells us, is to "love one another as I love you." Do we love as God loves when we reach out only to those who are like us or agree with us? We hear in today's Gospel that God appointed us "to go and bear fruit that will remain." How can you extend yourself to people in your parish, workplace, or community? How can your parish encourage its members to reach out to those who are unfamiliar to them?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, May 11, 2015

Presence of the Holy Spirit

Today's Gospel contains a warning. The future will be tumultuous for the disciples. They will be thrown out of the synagogues and be killed by those who think that they are doing the right thing. Still, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Spirit of truth will be with them. He will speak for Christ, and it will be their responsibility to do so also. Do you pray to the Holy Spirit to help you face difficulties and challenges in life? Today's Readings: Acts 16:11–15; Psalm 149:1b–2, 3–4, 5–6a and 9b (4a); John 15:26—16:4a.

Tuesday, May 12, 2015

Faithful Testimony

In today's reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see the persecution of the disciples that Jesus foretold. Paul and Silas are stripped, beaten, and imprisoned. Still, they pray and sing. And when an earthquake opened their cell doors, they did not escape but provided a testimony of faith to the jailer. Would you have run from your tormentors? Are you able to sing in spite of hard times? Does your prayer provide consolation? Today's Readings: Acts 16:22–34; Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8 (7c); John 16:5–11.

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Our Lady of Fatima

The Memorial of Our Lady of Fatima observes the apparitions to three Portuguese children in a field close to Fatima. Pope John Paul II attributed the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima with saving his life when he was shot on May 13, 1981, in St. Peter's Square. Exactly a year after the assassination attempt, the pope celebrated a Mass at Fatima, giving thanks to Mary. Mary is the Mother of the Church and also the spiritual mother to each of us. Have you nurtured a relationship with Mary as your mother? Today's Readings: Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; Psalm 148:1–2, 11–12, 13, 14 (Alleluia); John 16:12–15.

Thursday, May 14, 2015

If Celebrating the Ascension Today

Today's solemnity is a celebration of Jesus' enduring presence within the Church. The Ascension was both the beginning and end for the disciples. Instead of being left with sorrow and grief, they were filled with joy and with great anticipation for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Can you name some ways in which the Holy Spirit is living and working in the Church today? Today's Readings: Acts 1:1–11; Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9 (6); Ephesians 4:1–13; Mark 16:15–20.

Friday, May 15, 2015

St. Isidore

St. Isidore the Farmer (1080–1130) is the patron saint of Madrid, Spain, and the United States National Catholic Rural Life Conference (NCRLC). NCRLC works for social, economic, and spiritual development in rural America, through prayer, education, and advocacy. You may want to visit www.ncrlc.com to keep up with legislative and other issues that affect not only farmers but all who rely on them for food. The materials on the website, including an Eater's Bill of Rights, are from the perspective that we need to be faithful stewards of creation. Today's Readings: Acts 18:9–18; Psalm 47:2–3, 4–5, 6–7 (8a); John 16:20–23.

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Your Joy Will Be Complete

"Very truly, I tell you, if you ask anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you." In the discourse in today's Gospel, Jesus continues to teach the Apostles how to pray, this time telling them to pray in his name to the Father. When they do so, their prayers will be granted. It is interesting that Jesus tells the Apostles that their joy will be complete when they ask and receive. What do you consider complete joy to be? Today's Readings: Acts 18:23–28; Psalm 47:2–3, 8–9, 10 (8a); John 16: 23b–28.

