

*St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*  
*The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling “The First Fifteen.” We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week’s weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, January 28, 2017**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28**

Then they came to Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” all were amazed and asked one another, “What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

**Questions to Ponder:**

1. Who in your life was someone who “spoke with authority”? what made you listen to this person and how did you respond to that voice of authority/
2. In this gospel reading a “demonic spirit” challenges Jesus. Why did this demonic spirit challenge Jesus? What was the fear that motivated this spirit? How did Jesus handle this challenge?
3. Has Jesus’ “fame” spread throughout your region, your community, your family, your life? In what ways?

Let’s end with the “**Glory Be**”

**“Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen”**