

Monday, April 16, 2018 Reflection

"...they came looking for Jesus."

Where's Jesus? So often I have heard Catholics wish they had lived during Jesus' day so they could see the flesh and blood Jesus! I have done my share of pinning for those days too.

But then, Jesus is Risen! No longer limited by his physical body, we are able to experience the presence of Jesus in so many ways which the crowd of his day was not able to do. Jesus is present to us in Eucharist, in the Word of God, in the Body of Christ--you and me, in prayer, in symbol. How rich a treasure we have.

As the Gospel ends, they ask him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" He answers simply and succinctly, "Believe in the one He sent".

Where will our belief show us Jesus this week?

Sue Grenough

April 17 Reflection

“...Stephen called out, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Now Saul was consenting to his execution.

Saul and Stephan. In Acts, we meet two individuals so passionate about their faith—Saul following Judaism and Stephan following Jesus. Stephan was willing to die for his faith and asked for mercy for those who stoned him. What an awesome model of unyielding faith! For most of us we won't be stoned to death. But instead we face the daily occasions to die to behavior that is not Christ-like. Sometimes these daily “little” deaths don't seem so little after all. Recently I was asked to put my own plans aside to help someone. Being busy, I was grumbling inside even though I agreed to it. On the way to the car I had to pray to be more like Christ. I was still rushed but I was more peaceful and pleasant! We are called to Christ-like transformation.

What little transformations to be Christ-like will experience today?

Christ, be our strength!

Sue Grenough

April 18 Reflection

“Jesus said to the crowds, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.’ Jn 6:35

The Gospel at every Mass this week has Jesus referring to himself as the Bread of Life. He satisfies our hungers and thirsts. This provides a lifetime of meditation! These statements challenge us to examine more deeply what it is we hunger for. St. Augustine tells us that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. But in the spirit of our “On Sale” economy how often we settle for a cheaper satisfaction than deepening our relationship with Jesus. All the glamour, glitz, bling; all the addictions of shopping, sex, alcohol, etc; only serve to distract us at best from our deeper hunger for God. Jesus tells us again and again (we need the repeating) that He is the Bread of Life.

Christ, nourish us.

Sue Grenough

April 19 Reflection

“I am the living bread who came down from heaven.”

As one who has always had to be concerned about what's a good diet, I have grown fond of the statement, “You are what you eat.” Then one day I realize this can apply to receiving Christ the Bread of Life. When I consume his Body and Blood, I show that I am willing to become Christ-like more and more. To receive Christ is both a comfort and a challenge. It is a comfort that Christ is with me. It is a challenge to be Christ-like. In the Scriptures, I can see what Christ was like, how reacted, led, showed compassion, expressed anger, loved, etc. This is what I commit to become as I eat the living Bread, to be like the Bread.

To absorb more fully the message that Christ is the Bread of Life, read John's Gospel, Chapter 6.

Sue Grenough

April 20 Reflection

Conversion of Saul

“scales fell from his eyes”

Today's first reading in Acts tells us of Saul's conversion. This story is repeated two more times in Acts. Persecutor to Apostle! This same Saul who consented to Stephen's stoning experienced an encounter with the Risen Jesus whose followers he was persecuting. What a transformation from that encounter! Not just letting go of a few bad habits but a total change of heart and lifestyle. And then he had to face how others would react to the new Saul/Paul. Many were confused and fearful, many didn't trust him, some would run him out of town. Haven't we faced the same thing when we have attempted to improve an area of our life? There is a resistance to goodness which others can express to us. Whether we are trying to be healthier by exercising or watching what we eat or drink; whether we want to attend daily Mass, read Scripture daily, pray more, we can easily find those who readily discourage such a change. But few of us have had to make the dramatic turnaround that Paul did. He made a total change to become the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Christ, lead us.

Sue Grenough