

# *St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*

## *The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission has 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, July 8, 2018**

**Gospel Reading: Mark 6: 1-6**

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands? Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

1. What things have you accomplished in your life that you are proud of? How do those close to you feel about your accomplishments? Do they rejoice with you or ask you – “Where do you get off acting so proud of yourself?”
2. The age old question of Jesus’ “brothers and sisters” arises in this reading. Who do you think these people are to Jesus? Does it matter to you that Jesus may not have been an only child? Why or why not?
3. Why was Jesus not able to perform any mighty deeds there? Are you ever amazed at lack of faith in others, in yourself?

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**”