

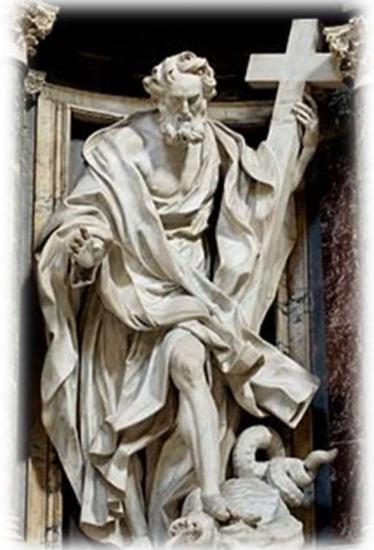
St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Monday, September 7, 2020

-- Monday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 5:1-8

Brothers and sisters: It is widely reported that there is immorality among you, and immorality of a kind not found even among pagans – a man living with his father's wife. And you are inflated with pride. Should you not rather have been sorrowful? The one who did this deed should be expelled from your midst. I, for my part, although absent in body but present in spirit, have already, as if present, pronounced judgment on the one who has committed this deed, in the name of our Lord Jesus: when you have gathered together and I am with you in spirit with the power of the Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the day of the Lord.



Your boasting is not appropriate. Do you not know that a little yeast leavens all the dough? Clear out the old yeast, so that you may become a fresh batch of dough, inasmuch as you are unleavened. For our Paschal Lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed. Therefore, let us celebrate the feast, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 55-6, 7, 12

Lead me in your justice, Lord.

For you, O God, delight not in wickedness;
no evil man remains with you;
the arrogant may not stand in your sight.
You hate all evildoers. ***R/.***

You destroy all who speak falsehood;
The bloodthirsty and the deceitful
the Lord abhors. ***R/.***

But let all who take refuge in you
be glad and exult forever.
Protect them, that you may be the joy
of those who love your name. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 6:6-11

On a certain sabbath Jesus went into the synagogue and taught, and there was a man there whose right hand was withered. The scribes and the Pharisees watched him closely to see if he would cure on the sabbath so that they might discover a reason to accuse him. But he realized their intentions and said to the man with the withered hand, "Come up and stand before us." And he rose and stood there. Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good on the sabbath rather than to do evil, to save life rather than to destroy it?" Looking around at them all, he then said to him, "Stretch out your hand." He did so and his hand was restored. But they became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus.

Reflection

They became enraged and discussed together what they might do to Jesus. (Luke 6:11)

How is it that Jesus wasn't afraid to do the things he did, including the healing in today's Gospel? Think of the level of hostility he faced — not just in the episode in today's passage, but in many other circumstances as well. This hostility continued to build until some of the Jewish leaders actually began plotting to kill him (John 11:53).

Why was he not afraid? Because he lived in deep communion with his Father. After another sabbath healing, he explained, "A son cannot do anything on his own, but only what he sees his father doing. . . . For the Father loves his Son and shows him everything that he himself does" (John 5:19, 20). Jesus' relationship with his Father overcame any temptation to worry or fear, to avoid discomfort or suffering. It's also what gave him the strength to choose the cross: "Not my will but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

Today, take a few minutes to consider your relationship with your heavenly Father. In what ways might you become more aware of his love for you? How might you grow in trust so that you can follow his will, even when it puts you in an uncomfortable or hostile situation?

Listening to our fears instead of trusting in our Father can close the door to what he wants to do through us. For example, if Jesus had given in to fear of what the scribes and Pharisees thought of him, that man with the withered hand may not have been healed. If Mary had allowed her concern of what others might say about her take precedence over the angel Gabriel's words, she might not have said yes to becoming Jesus' mother.

The temptation to fear is normal and only human. But that is why God offers us a relationship with him. He knows that the more we come to know him and experience his love for us, the more we will trust to do what he asks. As we seek him and his will for us each day, he will help us step out in confidence and trust.

Father, help me to trust you and to follow your leading.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.