

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Wednesday, April 28, 2021

- Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Easter
- Feast of St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
Feast of St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Leon W. Hutton**

First Reading: Acts 12:24—13:5

The word of God continued to spread and grow.

After Barnabas and Saul completed their relief mission, they returned to Jerusalem, taking with them John, who is called Mark.

Now there were in the Church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.

So they, sent forth by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. When they arrived in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8

O God, let all the nations praise you!

May God have pity on us and bless us;
may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth;
among all nations, your salvation. ***R/.***

May the nations be glad and exult
because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide. ***R/.***

May the peoples praise you, O God;
may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us,
and may all the ends of the earth fear him! ***R/.***

Gospel: John 12:44-50

Jesus cried out and said, "Whoever believes in me believes not only in me but also in the one

who sent me, and whoever sees me sees the one who sent me. I came into the world as light, so that everyone who believes in me might not remain in darkness. And if anyone hears my words and does not observe them, I do not condemn him, for I did not come to condemn the world but to save the world. Whoever rejects me and does not accept my words has something to judge him: the word that I spoke, it will condemn him on the last day, because I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. So what I say, I say as the Father told me.”

Reflection

Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul. (Acts 13:2)

Today’s first reading describes the beginning of St. Paul’s missionary journeys. For the next fifteen chapters of the Book of Acts, we will follow this heroic apostle all over Asia Minor and southern Europe as he preaches the gospel and establishes churches.

But what about St. Barnabas, his first partner in mission? Paul is such an outsized figure that he tends to overshadow Barnabas — and that’s a shame. Because if it weren’t for Barnabas, we wouldn’t have a St. Paul.

Barnabas’ real name was Joseph, but the first apostles nicknamed him Barnabas, which is Aramaic for “son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36). And that’s exactly what he was. He was always caring for the oppressed, the misunderstood, and the marginalized. He was always seeking to build them up and encourage them. For instance, he once sold a piece of land he owned and gave the money to the apostles to help them care for the poorer members of the new church (4:37).

Barnabas also stood up for Paul when the Jerusalem church questioned Paul’s conversion (Acts 9:26-30). And when the church at Antioch began to grow, Barnabas traveled to Tarsus to find Paul. He succeeded in convincing Paul — who still had a bit of a bad reputation in Jerusalem — to come back to Antioch and become his helper (11:25-26).

Barnabas stood by his cousin John Mark after Paul refused to travel with him because John Mark had abandoned them on an earlier mission (Acts 13:13; 15:36-38). People’s pasts didn’t matter to Barnabas, only their futures. He didn’t focus on their deficits. Instead, he sought to help them discover how they could serve the Lord.

What about you? We all need encouragement. That’s because we can be so accustomed to thinking about where we fall short that we lose sight of God’s gifts to us and the fact that he is calling us to serve him.

Don’t fall into that trap! Let Barnabas’ witness encourage you. God has given you special gifts, and he wants you to use them to build up his Church. He may even have a special nickname for you!

Father, help me recognize my gifts and use them for your glory.

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.