

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church



Tuesday, May 4, 2021

-- Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Frank Gappa, Sr.**

First Reading: Acts 14:19-28

In those days, some Jews from Antioch and Iconium arrived and won over the crowds. They stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. But when the disciples gathered around him, he got up and entered the city. On the following day he left with Barnabas for Derbe.

After they had proclaimed the good news to that city and made a considerable number of disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch. They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith, saying, "It is necessary for us to undergo many hardships to enter the Kingdom of God." They appointed presbyters for them in each Church and, with prayer and fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had put their faith. Then they traveled through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. After proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now accomplished. And when they arrived, they called the Church together and reported what God had done with them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. Then they spent no little time with the disciples.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13, 21

Your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might. ***R/.***

Making known to men your might
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is a kingdom for all ages,
and your dominion endures through all generations. ***R/.***

May my mouth speak the praise of the Lord,
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever. ***R/.***

Gospel: John 14:27-31

Jesus said to his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I will come back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe. I will no longer speak much with you, for the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me, but the world must know that I love the Father and that I do just as the Father has commanded me."

Reflection

They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith. (Acts 14:22)

"Exhort." It's not the most common word used today, but exhortation is central to our calling as disciples of Christ. To exhort someone means to strongly urge them in some way. In the case of our Christian walk, it means encouraging one another "to persevere in the faith," just as Paul and Barnabas did for the people they had evangelized on their first missionary journey (Acts 14:22).

Christian exhortation requires a delicate balance of positive encouragement and constructive criticism, all handled with such love and grace that the listener doesn't feel discouraged. Generally, this isn't something you do with a casual acquaintance. You only offer encouragement like this to friends you know and trust — people whom you have shared your life with and who have shared their lives with you.

The truth is, God would like all of us to have close friendships like this that are rooted in our common faith and love for him. He wants to see all his children have brothers and sisters in Christ who are willing to help each other grow in holiness.

Perhaps you already have one or two close friends like this. If so, thank the Lord for them and treasure them! If not, ask God to send you a brother or sister who can fulfill this role in your life. Or better yet, look at your friends and see if there are any with whom you can begin to build such a relationship.

Is there someone you feel comfortable sharing your faith with? Start by sharing your thoughts on that Sunday's homily or letting them know that you are praying for them. You might also ask if there are any specific intentions you can pray for. Or share your own prayer intentions with them.

Jesus told his disciples, "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). Imagine the impact we could have on this world if we all grew to love and exhort each other in Christ!

Lord, help me deepen my friendships with my brothers and sisters so that we can help each other grow closer to you.

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.