

6th Monday of Easter “The Adventure of Apostleship”
Fr. Frank Schuster
May 17, 2020

The Acts of the Apostles provides us with another entertaining reading. It says that they went to, “Samothrace, and on the next day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, a leading city in that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.” And who did they meet and convert to the Christian faith after all of that? A woman who deals in purple fabric. I find that entertaining. After her household gets baptized, she says, “Hey come over and stay at my place”. And the Apostles did, the end. And perhaps this is what I love most about being a priest. No two days are ever alike. What I think the day is going to be like when I wake up to what it ends up being seem to always be two different things.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus tells his disciples as much. He essentially tells his disciples to keep their hearts open to the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send them. We are a couple weeks away from Pentecost so it feels like we are going to hear that message a few times before then. Today, we are reminded that following the Holy Spirit does not mean we will always be safe. Sometimes following the Holy Spirit can be dangerous, as there are even today people in our world who think hurting or abusing Christians is a good thing to do. And sometimes standing up and speaking the truth, even if it is with love, can be a dangerous activity. Most of the early Church leaders the Acts of the Apostles follows were martyred for proclaiming the Gospel.

What motivated them to proclaim the Gospel? Were they doing it so they can manically travel from city to city to convert a woman who deals in purple fabric? And the answer to that question is yes, if that is what the Holy Spirit calls them to do. What is the Holy Spirit calling us to do? We are getting to that point in the Easter Season when it is good to ask ourselves that question from time to time. What is the Holy Spirit calling us to do right now, this week or in the coming year or so? The best way to discern these things of course is with prayer at the feet of Jesus. However, the readings today suggest that not every prompting of the Holy Spirit is going to keep us “safe” in this life. We need to have faith enough to listen to God when he speaks to us. We need to have the wisdom to discern exactly what he is saying. And, we need have the courage to walk in the direction he wants to lead us...even if it is to Samothrace, Neapolis or Philippi. Where is the Holy Spirit calling us today?