

April 28-29, 2007

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 13:14-52

Revelation 7:9-17

John 10:27-30

In our politically-correct era of total exclusivity, this week's Scriptures strike a dissonant chord of exclusivity. Perhaps we have forgotten a characteristic of Christianity, and Catholic-Christianity in particular, is that while many are called and invited...not everyone is willing to embrace the qualities that define being a Catholic-Christian disciple of Jesus Christ. In Acts of the Apostles we hear that persecution and jealousy by those threatened with the teachings of Paul and Barnabas help to spread the very teachings they are attempting to silence. BUT, let's not overlook that Paul and Barnabas 'shook the dust from their feet in protest' against the Jews of Antioch and Pisidia...wow, imagine if we heard Pope Benedict or Bishop Tod shaking the dust of particular groups from their feet! In Revelation, we hear that John has a vision of a great multitude of those 'who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb', but the language implies that they are a select group and that there are others...who have chosen to not wash in the blood of the lamb...and they are not receiving the life-giving water and tear-free eyes the passage promises. Finally in the Gospel of John we hear Jesus speaking of his sheep who hear his voice and follow him...and again by implication saying that there are those who have heard his voice and chosen to not follow him. All of which encourages us to consider that faith is not a magic game, it does indeed require sincerity of intention and desire and is not something one gains by simply going through empty motions of superficial sacramentality/spirituality. Four weeks into the Easter unfolding, are we genuinely interested in being spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ...or are we just doing the minimum we can to get by and seemingly cover our bases? What a hoot if we were supposedly covering our bases only to find out that God is not deceived and we will merit and receive from God precisely according to the sincerity of our commitment and intentions. Interesting concept in our politically correct era...what if everyone isn't treated the same? What if everyone is treated according to what they deserve? HmMMMM

Thank you for coming and sharing our worship here at Corpus Christi. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home, lots of things coming up of which you do not want to miss out. Also, you may wish to periodically peruse the Concierge Shelves for material on assorted ministries and other organizations here at the parish, all of them are great ways in which to become more intentional and focused in the living of our faith. Reservations for our Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show at El Niguel Country Club are available after Mass, perhaps a great Mother's Day gift for those special women in your life? As we say good-bye to April and hello to May, remember, you are loved. FKB