

**May 14, 2017: Sunday Homily on John 14:1-12**

Today's readings tell us how the early Church accepted the challenge of keeping Jesus' memory alive by remaining a dynamic Christian community, bearing witness to Christ by their unity, fidelity in worship and spirit of loving and humble service. **Today's Gospel** introduces Jesus as the Way to God, the Truth to be accepted and the Life to be shared and lived. **The first reading**, taken from Acts, shows us the early Church as a loving, serving and worshipping community (Acts 6:1-7). Hence, it easily solved a problem of perceived discrimination by instituting the diaconate for the service of the community. **In the second reading**, St. Peter advises the early Christians to renew the memory of Jesus by making their community a spiritual edifice built from the "living stones" of believers upon the "Living Cornerstone of Christ" (I Pt 2:4-5). Peter praises Christians, Gentiles and Jews, as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's own people." **In today's Gospel**, Jesus consoles his apostles who are sad and disheartened at the prospect of his arrest and crucifixion by assuring them that he is going to prepare an everlasting accommodation for them in his Father's House in Heaven. He gives them the assurance that he will come back to take them to their Heavenly abodes. It is then that Thomas asks Jesus where he is going and the way to reach him. Jesus answers Thomas' question with, a quote; I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." The basic doctrine of Judaism is that Yahweh is the Way the Truth and the Life. Hence, Jesus is making a revolutionary claim that he is equivalent to Yahweh. Jesus declares that he is the safest and surest way to God, discrediting the notions that all religions are equally sure ways to reach God, or that no organized religion but only living a good life of sharing love is necessary to reach God. But Jesus the Way is

narrow because it is the way of loving, humble and sacrificial service.

Jesus is the Truth who taught revealed truths about God and God's relation to man. Jesus also taught moral truths by demonstrating them in his life. Jesus is the Life because as God he possesses the eternal life of God and shares his Divine life with his disciples through the Word of God and the Sacraments.

e need to accept Jesus as the Way, Truth and the Life: We accept Jesus as the Way by walking the narrow way of loving, humble and sacrificial service. We accept Jesus the Truth by learning and practicing what he taught as given in the Bible and in the teachings of the Church. We share the Divine life of God by making use of the means Jesus established in his Church.

**a)** By actively participating in the Eucharistic celebration and properly receiving the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. **b)** By the worthy reception of the other Sacraments. **c)** By the meditative and daily reading of the Word of God. **d)** By allowing the Holy Spirit living in the Church and within us to guide and strengthen us. **e)** By communicating with God the Source of Life, in personal and family prayers.

**1)** “No thanks.” Evangelist Billy Graham tells of a time during the early years of his preaching ministry when he was due to lead a crusade meeting in a town in South Carolina, and he needed to mail a letter. He asked a little boy in the main street how he could get to the post office. The boy gave him directions. Billy said, “If you come to the Central Baptist Church tonight, I’ll tell you how to get to Heaven, God the Father’s house.” The boy replied, “No thanks. You don’t even know how to get to the post office and you are going to teach me how to go to Heaven?!”

2) To the Father's House with two bags of currency: A stingy old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove wrong the saying, t take it with you. After much thought and consideration, the old ambulance-chaser finally figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough paper currency to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed. His plan was that when he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to Heaven. Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife, while cleaning the attic, came upon the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with currency.

I knew he should have had me put the money in the basement so that he could take it on his way down to Hell.