



CONSOLATA SHRINE
5th SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A
14th May 2017



The Many ways of Giving up One's Life

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

"They picked out seven men full of the Holy Spirit."

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Permenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.



The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 33:1-2.4-5. 18-19

Response.

**May your merciful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O Lord**

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for the upright.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp;
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(Response)**

For the word of the Lord is faithful,
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right,
and his merciful love fills the earth. **(Response)**

Yes, the Lord's eyes are on those who fear him,
who hope in his merciful love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(Response)**



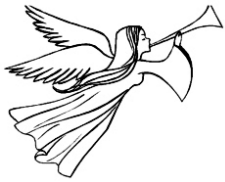
"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood."

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

Beloved: Come to the Lord, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and he who believes in him will not be put to shame." To you therefore who believe, he is precious, but for those who do not believe, "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone that will make men stumble, a rock that will make them fall"; for they stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.



The word of the Lord



Alleluia

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

John 14: 1-12

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

*I am the Way
the Truth
and the Life*
John 14:6

In those days: Jesus said to his disciples, "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to

him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord show us the Father and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

BUILDING HIS HOUSE By Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

By His death, Resurrection and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house. His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body. As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth. Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building. In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices" - all our prayer, work and intentions to God. This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt. God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises. By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies. In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up, as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word." The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled, but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father. His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power, and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today the Book "Under the Watchful Eye of Mary" authored by Dr. Pamela Mandela Idenya will be launched at Pauline Books & Media Centre at 6pm-7.30pm. For more information, visit the desk outside the church or get a copy at our Bookshop.
2. Every Friday of Easter time, we continue praying the Way of Light at the Prayer Garden at 4pm. The booklet with such prayers is available at the Bookshop.
3. We continue with the pilgrimage with the Icon of Our Lady Consolata to the homes from Mondays to Fridays. It is a special occasion to have our Mother visiting our families, in this Year of the Family. Everyday Mass and blessing of the house will take place in the home where the Icon will be. Please register in the Parish Office during the week.

4. Construction of the Allamano Centre to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking has begun. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project.
5. Last week, 4 parishioners got the Second 4 prizes. Two smartphones each and two petrol vouchers each. New prizes are won every week! Continue supporting the project and please pass the message to your friends so to participate into the raffle for a noble cause. Remember the code is *369*2#. The more you donate, the more changes of winning!

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Communication Committee on Monday at 6.15pm

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Watch, O Lord, with those who wake, or watch, or weep tonight, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend your sick ones, O Lord Christ. Rest your weary ones. Bless your dying ones. Soothe your suffering ones. Pity your afflicted ones. Shield your joyous ones. And for all your love's sake. Amen

PRAYER FOR THE ALLAMANO CENTRE

I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. (Ps 121:1)

All-powerful and all-merciful father, you have created all things through your Son and have made him the unshakable foundation of your kingdom. Through the gift of your eternal wisdom, grant that the undertaking we begin today for your glory and the benefit of the Parish may progress day by day to its successful completion. May the Allamano Centre be the expression of our faith and of our missionary zeal to reach more people and in a better way. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady Consolata, pray for us! Blessed Joseph Allamano, pray for Us!

DAILY READING

Monday: Acts 14:5-18; Ps 115:1-2-4.15-16; Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28; Ps 145:10-13.21; Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6; Ps 122:1-5; Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21; Ps 96:1-3.10; Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31; Ps 57:8-12; Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10; Ps 100:1-3.5; Jn 15:18-21

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili**

9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon
and 5.30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am
and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am
and 1.15 pm, 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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