



Bringing Home the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter | May 14, 2017

God Shows Us

By Mary Katharine Deeley

When the planes flew into New York's twin towers on that fateful Tuesday in September 2001, I had just arrived early to set up for a meeting of campus ministers. I had caught the first account on the car radio. "Are you listening to this?" I asked a colleague. She hadn't heard the news, but my boss came down from his apartment upstairs and said quietly, "I have it on TV." I couldn't think of anything to say except, "Show it to me; can I see it?"

Sunday Readings

Acts 6:1-7

"Select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task."

1 Peter 2:4-9

"You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own.'"

John 14:1-12

"I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be."

We went upstairs and watched as long as we could before our colleagues arrived, and we talked and listened and then went into Mass to pray for the lives lost and for the future of our world.

"Show me," we say, when things seem impossible to imagine. "Show me," we say when a child comes in wide-eyed wonder with a treasure she has just found. "Show me," Philip said, because he couldn't imagine the God-Father that Jesus was speaking about. He expected some grand sign—an earthquake, a thunderstorm, or any of the ways the presence of God was depicted in the Old Testament.

What Philip did not expect was that Jesus, who was standing right in front of him, was God himself: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

We often miss the evidence that God is with us. It may be something as simple as the beauty of creation or the outpouring of love and support the world gave to the people of New York on that long-ago day.

Let us pray that we see his presence in our midst this week—and always. †

*Signs of God
are everywhere.*

A Word From Pope Francis

Just as the Father gave us the Son out of love, and the Son gave himself to us out of the same love, so we too can love others as God has loved us, giving our lives for one another. Faith in God becomes goodness, faith in the crucified Christ becomes the strength to love to the end, even our enemies. The proof of authentic faith in Christ is self-giving and the spreading of love for our neighbors, especially for those who do not merit it, for the suffering and for the marginalized.

—Twenty-second
World Day of the Sick,
December 6, 2013



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- Reflect on a time you asked God to "show me." What was God's response?
- How do you answer God's command to "show" him to others in your life?



Sharpening Our Vision

By Paige Byrne Shortal

In the Gospel passage about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus appears to

Cleopas and an unnamed disciple.

The audience knows it's Jesus, but the disciples are "prevented from recognizing him."

The disciples tell Jesus about his own death. They talk about their dashed hopes and disappointments. They talk about the women who claim they saw a vision of angels announcing he is alive. Only after they sit down for supper,

when Jesus blesses the bread and shares it with them, do they know who he is. The disciples didn't recognize their good friend and teacher, just as we often fail to recognize that divine spark in those we love the most.

An incident that brought this home occurred one evening when our pastor came over for dinner. Our sons were teenagers then. Remembering the state of their room, I cringed as they gave the priest a tour of the house. When our pastor came back downstairs, he went on and on about their "cool room."

Later that evening I climbed the stairs

to the "lair" to try and see what our pastor saw. There it was—every inch of space on the walls and sloped ceilings was covered with original drawings, hand-calligraphed quotes, poetry, origami animals, and photographs. It *was* a cool room. All *I* had ever seen were the unmade beds and laundry on the floor.

Maybe we all need to take a seven-mile hike together, or at least sit down for a meal and offer up a little prayer for better eyesight—eyes that see Jesus dwelling in each other. †

Source: Liguorian,
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Who We Are Tells Us What We Do

By Greg Friedman, OFM

In his book *Catholicism*, contemporary Catholic theologian Fr. Richard McBrien identifies the mission of the Church with that of the kingdom proclaimed by Jesus but warns that the Church itself is by no means the fully realized kingdom. He goes on to describe three models of Church: the *institutional*, the *community*, and the *servant*.

The *institutional* Church calls us to the values we hold in common. There are different functions, offices, and gifts within the one body. As a priest, I look to laypersons to exercise their baptismal role. So, for example, in the

area of politics I may be less able to take an active role in office-seeking, where other members of the body of Christ can. I know very little about science or medical ethics. I rely on a brother or sister Christian in the field to apply the Church's teachings that deal with the sanctity of life.

Community has always been an important value to us as a Church. Today we have strengthened the role of community in the Church by emphasizing it in more explicit ways. We have made community more visible in our worship through an emphasis on greater participation in prayer and song.

And finally, the role of the Church as *servant*. What is particularly noteworthy about our contemporary efforts to serve is a wider consciousness and greater involvement than ever before. Our image of Church now includes American lay

missioners working in the Third World, a grass-roots interest in efforts on behalf of peace and human rights, solidarity with the poor, and a heartfelt response to the desperate needs of our brothers and sisters starving in Africa. †

Source: *Catholic Update*,
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Heavenly Father, you are constantly working out your plan for your Church, with me as a living member of it. Help me to find and maintain my place for your glory and the building up of your Church. Amen.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

WEEKDAY READINGS

May 15–20

Mon. Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:5–18 / Jn 14:21–26
Tue. Easter Weekday:
Acts 14:19–28 / Jn 14:27–31a
Wed. Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:1–6 / Jn 15:1–8

Thu. Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:7–21 / Jn 15:9–11
Fri. Easter Weekday:
Acts 15:22–31 / Jn 15:12–17
Sat. Easter Weekday:
Acts 16:1–10 / Jn 15:18–21

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