



# Bringing Home the Word

Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

May 22, 2022

## Interpreting Christ's Teachings Today

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

The passage of Acts in Sunday's readings shows us something about the early Church that we often overlook. Paul, Silas, and the other apostles felt a responsibility to preserve the true doctrine passed on to them. When they understood that certain Christians were teaching demands that didn't come from the Holy Spirit, they corrected that doctrine by sending a letter and endorsing the true interpretation.

Even in the earliest Church, there was an evolving hierarchy that interpreted what was God's will for the Christian

### Sunday Readings

#### Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

It is the decision of the holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities.

#### Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light.

#### John 14:23-29

[Jesus said,] "The holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] told you."

community. This charism of the proper interpretation of Christ's teaching continues in today's Catholic Church through the pope and the bishops.

Jesus declared to the apostles at the Last Supper that the Holy Spirit would remind them of all he told them. Jesus gave this gift to the Church, and it's something we should value. How often do we search a subject online to learn about it and then trust what a few articles say? Yet, are we as quick to look up what the Holy Father and the bishops say on different subjects in order to be guided by that light?

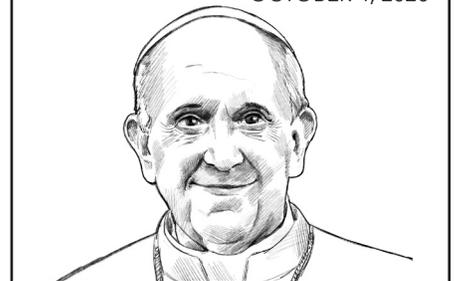
We are not sheep without a shepherd but have bishops and priests who preach the word of God and lead us toward the truth. When the bishops, in communion with the Holy Father, exercise their teaching office (the magisterium), they help us understand God's revelation in faith and morals. This is the way the early Church developed and the way the Church still lives today. +

*Even in the earliest Church,  
there was an evolving  
hierarchy that interpreted  
what was God's will for  
the Christian community.*

### A Word from Pope Francis

[J]esus says that true authority is when one performs service; it is in serving, not exploiting others. The vineyard is the Lord's, not ours. Authority is a service, and as such should be exercised for the good of all and for the dissemination of the Gospel. It is awful to see when people who have authority in the Church seek their own interests.

ANGELUS, ST. PETER'S SQUARE,  
OCTOBER 4, 2020



### REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Are there things I can let go of to make my home more peaceful?
- Are there attitudes I can let go of to make my heart and mind more peaceful?

# Spring Cleaning

By Paige Byrne Shortal

In my part of the world, May is not a time to think about personal self-improvement and other interior matters. We do that in January, in Lent, maybe in September, but not in May. In rural Missouri, May is when the weather is reliably warm. It's time to raise the storm windows and let in the fresh air. It's time for spring cleaning the house, for throwing out the accumulation of winter.

It's astounding what we hold on to. The shirt we never wear but might someday. The books we never read but might someday. The platters, plastic storage containers, pots with no lids, lids with no pots, that old brown purse, the shoes that never fit, unused tools, half-completed projects, that cluttery stuff!

It's too much! Let's go yard-sale-ing instead. Sale signs are popping up everywhere along with the violets. There might be some good deals. But first, what about the cost of too much stuff?

In our house we try to control too much stuff by adhering to the wisdom of designer William Morris, who said, "Have nothing in your homes that you do not know to be useful and believe to be beautiful." My husband is better at it than I am. He has a rule for himself—when something comes in, something must go out. Give him a shirt, he gives a shirt away. He has one small closet, one bureau drawer. I cheat. I put clothes in a cedar chest so I can decide later what to do with them.



Here's a sobering fact. The self-storage industry claims over 39 billion dollars in annual revenues and construction spending on self-storage has increased by 584 percent from January 2015 to January 2020. Self-storage is an apt name. For we give a little bit of ourselves to each thing we own—our time and energy to buy it, clean it, walk around it, store it, wonder what to do with it. And someday, someone we love will inherit all this. Lucky them.

A home can hold only a few beautiful and useful things. Too much and they cease to be beautiful or useful. The same is true for our hearts and minds. We can only hold so much. If our homes are cluttered, chances are our hearts and minds will be cluttered, too.

In the Easter stories, we hear about the disciples hiding in the upper room or walking on the road to Emmaus or meeting Jesus on the shore. Keeping a low profile, they would have traveled light, and they were feeling empty inside after the death of their friend and teacher. Each time Jesus appeared to them, they didn't recognize him—who would? He was dead!—but they had room for him and his words. Their eyes were opened, their hearts burned within them, and his words changed their lives.

Do we have room for life-changing words? Do we have time for the risen Jesus? For Jesus to rise in us, anything that is not of Jesus has to go. Let's do what comes naturally in May. Let's spring clean. But while we're cleaning out the closet, let's let go of whatever is holding us back from being the person we're meant to be. As we jettison the outgrown clothes or unused kitchen items, let's also surrender the grudges, anxieties, selfishness, envy, pessimism, cynicism, anything and everything about which the Spirit is whispering in our ear: "*Oh come on, you don't need that. Let it go. Trust me.*" +

## PRAYER

*Risen Lord, your death and resurrection brought peace to the world. Help me to be an instrument of your peace to others.*

From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 23–28

**Monday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 16:11–15 / Jn 15:26–16:4a

**Tuesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 16:22–34 / Jn 16:5–11

**Wednesday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 17:15, 22–18:1 / Jn 16:12–15

**Thursday**, St. Philip Neri:  
Acts 18:1–8 / Jn 16:16–20

**Friday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 18:9–18 / Jn 16:20–23

**Saturday**, Easter Weekday:  
Acts 18:23–28 / Jn 16:23b–28