

MAY 17, 2015



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS 1:15–17, 20A, 20C–26

PSALM 103:1–2, 11–12, 19–20

1 JOHN 4:11–16

JOHN 17:11B–19

REFLECTION

What if you were asked to mentor a person who was becoming a Catholic but they knew very little about the Church? What if it was your responsibility to teach them by your words and example? What would you tell them? Where would you take them to show them what it means to be a Catholic? Are there songs or prayers you would share with them that have been helpful to you?

Jesus prays for the Apostles and for us in today's Gospel reading. His prayer is a prayer for protection, unity, and love. Remember that God hears those (and all of our) prayers and that we are not alone as long as we share love with others. There was a popular saying bouncing around Christian circles a few years ago: "You are the only Gospel some people will ever read." What it means to me is a lot like last week's Gospel message: There may be people in your life who haven't had any exposure to religion, but they know *you*! As the Second Reading says, "No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us" (1 John 4:12).

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks
to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he
blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are
the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which
he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth
but yours.

— Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

ACTION

Every day this week write down one way you have preached the Gospel with your life. Did you help? Did you listen? Did you love? Did you serve? After the first couple of days you might catch yourself thinking about the day ahead and figuring out what you might be able to do that day!



JOURNALING QUESTIONS



- Has someone else been the Gospel for you? Name an action that someone else took that didn't involve words but was a clear example for you.
- What is the strongest love in your life? Do you think of that love as having God as its source? Why or why not?