

Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, Thursday in the Third Week of Easter

Good Morning from St. Bernadette's.

I hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and following all the guidance we receive to overcome these strange times, and continuing to pray for all our needs at this time.

And yet another beautiful day to wake up to. Let's all try and make the most of it.

We stay with the Apostle Philip today and have his famous conversion of the Ethiopian Court Official. Philip jumps into his chariot and prepares him for baptism by explaining the Scriptures, particularly a passage referring to the death of Jesus from the old Testament, *'Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter-house.'* After the baptism we are told that Philip was taken away by the spirit of the Lord and continued his journey proclaiming the Good News. Let's follow his example.

*Heavenly Father,*

*pour forth your Holy Spirit to inspire me with these words from Holy Scripture.*

*Stir in my soul the desire to renew my faith*

*and deepen my relationship with your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ*

*so that I might truly believe in and live the Good News.*

*Open my heart to hear the Gospel*

*and grant me the confidence to proclaim the Good News to others.*

*Pour out your Spirit, so that I might be strengthened to go forth*

*and witness to the Gospel in my everyday life through my words and actions.*

*In moments of hesitation, remind me:*

*If not me, then who will proclaim the Gospel?*

*If not now, then when will the Gospel be proclaimed?*

*If not the truth of the Gospel, then what shall I proclaim?*

*God, our Father, I pray that through the Holy Spirit*

*I might grow in confidence to proclaim the Gospel*

*and boldly witness to the saving grace of your Son, Jesus Christ,*

*who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,*

*one God, for ever and ever.*

*Amen.*

As Jesus continues to speak about himself as the Eucharist in John 6:44-51 he reminds his hearers that the Prophets which they are all supposed to be so familiar with wrote that listening to the teaching of the Father and to learn from it is actually to come to the Messiah, to come now to Jesus, and *'No one*

*can come to the father unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me.' We are drawing ever more closer to our understanding of the Eucharist as Jesus says, 'the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world.'*

*Heavenly Father,*

*increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.*

*We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins.*

*We need your peace in our hearts and among nations.*

*We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness.*

*May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen*

'Sweet Sacrament Divine' would be a most appropriate hymn following that prayer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIYY3tComqY>

And here's a picture Eileen took last night of a most beautiful Sunset from the prom. Psalm 113 comes to mind '*From the rising of the sun to its setting, praised be the name of the Lord.*' Praise indeed.

Enjoy this beautiful day!

Once again many thanks for all your return mails. Apologies if I don't reply immediately, sometimes they seem to get lost (or kind of bunched up). Any suggestions for ways to keep our faith and spirits up at this time are most welcome!

And remember, St. Bernadette's is not closed. We're just doing things differently for a while, until we are allowed to gather together once more, more stronger, more faithful, more loving, more creative, and more grateful for the amazing community that is St. Bernadette's.

With love and faith in Jesus.

Fr. P.