

复活期第五主日 (5/7/2023)

– 摘自 John J. Gilchrist 蒙席案卷, 1996 年 5 月 5 日

今天的宗徒大事录中所提到的七位（管理者）传统上认为就是最初的执事。宗徒们意识到他们没有办法完成所有满足民众所需的管理任务，就提出了这样一个行动纲领提议。整个信仰团体接纳了这个提议，七位被选者得到宗徒们的委任。

不仅十二宗徒宣讲主的道，连那些加入他们的人也在宣讲，于是我们就得知：【主的圣言继续在传播，同时门徒的数目在耶路撒冷大为增加。】这是一个多么的荣耀的时期 - 早期教会在茁壮成长。但是迫害也随之到来。

伯多禄在他的书信中提醒我们是【特选的种族，王家的司祭，圣洁的国民，属于主的民族，为叫你们宣扬那由黑暗中召叫你们，进入祂奇妙之光者的荣耀。】这就是(天主给)我们的传承。我们是被拣选的人来完成上主在世上的工作。

在今天的福音中圣若望再次强调耶稣的教导，强调信奉者与荣耀的基督的关系 – 是合作伙伴关系。透过耶稣基督的圣死和复活，信仰天主有了新的意义。耶稣谈到天父的家，他要去为他忠实的追随者准备地方。耶稣给我们许诺，通过他我们可以直接到达天父那里 – 永久喜乐的天国。

藉着耶稣给我们的蓝图，我们可以“规划”我们的生活。但耶稣从未说过这样的生活是容易的，而事实上正相反。我们也会想起这样的教导：“他们会恼恨你，用所有邪恶的手段反对你”。耶稣给我们承诺，如果我们对他忠信，追随他的道，我们就会得到他的赏报 – 拥有他，地狱的恶势力绝不会降伏我们。天主对我们每个人的爱是多么深厚！我们被称为慈爱天父的儿女和天国产业的继承者，这该是多么有幸啊！

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles today speaks to the first seven men who are traditionally regarded as the first deacons. The apostles, realizing that they could not accomplish all the tasks that needed to be attended to, proposed such a course of action. The entire community of believers accepted the proposal, and the seven men were commissioned by the apostles.

Through the teachings not only of the twelve apostles but also of those who were joined to their number, we are told that “The word of God continued to spread, while at the same time the number of the disciples in Jerusalem enormously increased.” What a glorious time it was as the flowering of the early Church began. The persecutions were to follow as well.

Peter reminds us in the epistles that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people He (the Lord) claims for His own to proclaim the glorious works of the One Who called us from darkness into his marvelous light.” This is our heritage. We are the “People set apart to accomplish the work of the Lord in the world.

The gospel passage from Saint John re-enforces all that Jesus taught. This reading emphasizes the relationship of the believer to the glorified Christ. There is no separation, but a deeper fellowship. Belief in God has taken on a new meaning in Jesus Christ. Jesus had passed through death into resurrection. He speaks of the Father’s house. He is going to prepare a place for those who are His faithful followers. Through Jesus Christ, we are promised access to the Father – eternal happiness in Heaven.

We are given the blueprint by which we can “map out” our lives. Jesus never said that it would be easy....quite the contrary. We recall phrases such as, “They will hate you, and utter all kinds of evil against you.” And yet, Jesus promises us that if we remain faithful, if we do the best we can to follow His way, He Himself will be our reward and all the forces of hell will not prevail against us. Oh, how great is the love of the Lord for each of us! How fortunate are we to be called the children of God, the heirs of the kingdom of God, the beloved of the Father.

From the archives of Msgr. John J. Gilchrist May 5,1996