

Saturday 5/21 All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. [Acts 13:44-52](#) [98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4](#) [Jn 14:7-14](#)

The old saw "seeing is believing" just plain ain't so. Those who put faith in what they see are simply forgetting the art of illusion. Seeing helps a person make meaningful and logical predictions and plans to navigate through life. On the other hand, faith is life. Discernment not observation is the key to the spiritual life. Those most competent in the use of human senses for observation and prediction, the men of science, have learned that nothing predicted by observation is certain. All scientific predictions must be stated as probabilities. It is faith and faith alone that stands rock solid certain. God loves me. That is the only certainty, and joyfully, praise be to Him, it is all that matters anyway!

Friday 5/20 You are my Son; this day I have begotten you. [Acts 13:26-33](#) [2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab](#) [Jn 14:1-6](#)

I have had an experience that most of you have not. It does not make me better or wiser, but it does give me a certain perspective on the meaning of today's words from the Lectionary. I have been present at the birth of my own children. I know that all mothers too have this experience, but I know they will not argue that the father's experience is much different. There is a joy that cannot be described that fills one in this experience. Is this how God, Our Father, feels about each of us? It is only a dim shadow of His joy, only the very dimmest shadow. He loves each of us so passionately! When our child is born our minds and hearts overflow with the possibilities. Our imagination runs wild as we think of all the things we can do and be for this new baby. God is different. He sees the reality of all these possibilities, and He knows His wonderful plan for all creation and especially the tiny, but crucial part that each child will play in it. So, just like the little baby, it is okay for us to cry out in our discomfort and in the amazing newness of this life. It is okay because it never fails to bring Him very close to us. We are so very important to Him.

Thursday 5/19 For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord. [Acts 13:13-25](#) [Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27](#) [Jn 13:16-20](#)

There are those who would deny the simple reality that we are Jesus. After all, it is incredible. Far worse than them are those who would pervert the simple meaning of this fact simply because it is so incredible. These are the ones who wish to give themselves credit for this simple reality. They are the ones who strive to imitate Christ rather than the humbly accept this most awesome gift. Pray for these folks. They are the ones who suffer the most. They are the ones who have confused the "getting there" with the "being there." It is such a simple twist. Do not do to be, rather do because you are. There is an infinite difference.

Wednesday 5/18 O God, let all the nations praise you! [Acts 12:24—13:5a](#) [Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8](#) [Jn 12:44-50](#)

There is a great secret hidden in today's reading. Can you find it? This secret like the snake that would "have bit you", like the thing that is always "in the last place you look", or like the "best hidden" Easter egg, is right out in the open. Everyone can see it plainly. Almost everyone will say it. Nearly every person does it some time. Why is it so very hard for all of us to understand? Why is it so very hard to really believe it? Why is it that no one, not a single one can make it truly his own all the time? Have you discovered it yet? ..."his commandment is eternal life". Simple as that! It really is that simple. His commandment is to love as He loves. That is all there is to it. It is so very simple to say, so very simple to proclaim in words. There really is nothing else that can make a positive difference in this world. But, for us weak willed, dim-witted, "fraidy cats", it is simply impossible to do. Now does it not now make complete sense of everything? Of course it does. It is why He made us. It is why He came in the flesh and redeemed us. It is why His very Spirit stays with us. Faith of our Father, Hope of salvation, Love that is Him. Our Piety that brings

union, Study that brings understanding, Action that is love in motion. This one simple phrase elucidates, it brings to light, the meaning and reality of all things.

Tuesday 5/17 All you nations, praise the Lord. [Acts 11:19-26](#) [Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7](#) [Jn 10:22-30](#)

What does He mean "the Father and I are one"? What do we mean when we receive Holy Communion? Are we then one with Jesus, one with our Father? Do we act like it? Do we go to those Jesus loves? Do we welcome those our Father made? Are we laying down our lives for our neighbors? I must admit that often I act badly. Often I am just too tired. Often I just want it my way. I just can't find it in me to accept those who are different. Why, Lord? Why did you not make us all Roman Catholics in full communion with your Holy Church?

Monday 5/16 Athirst is my soul for the living God. [Acts 11:1-18](#) [Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4](#) [Jn 10:11-18](#)

I have noticed a curious fact about many but not all devout Christians. So often they wish to pick and choose the "target" of their "ministry." The Gospel is quite clear. We are sent to the same ones Jesus was sent to. It is the command of His Father, Our Father. Jesus is sent and sends us to all, to everyone. Those who serve other gods may have been given the freedom to pick and choose, and, of course, so have we. The difference is that we have not been given the right to call ourselves righteous if we do so. God loves and welcomes everyone, every single person, into our family, and asks us not just to be willing, but actually to sacrifice our lives for them. How useful would a chisel be to the master sculptor if it declined to work on this or that block of stone because the stone was "not good enough"? Surely certain chisels are designed for certain purposes, but in the master's hand it must stand ready to do its best on any block that comes its way. After all, He, not the chisel, is the creator.

Saturday 5/14 The Lord will give him a seat with the leaders of his people. [Acts 1:15-17, 20-26](#) [Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8](#) [Jn 15:9-17](#)

Who are you going to listen to, Jesus or God? Ten Commandments, Two Commandments, One Commandment? It really is very simple once you understand Him. Jesus is God. Jesus and Our Father are one. For the one who understands this there really are no commandments. That is one big fat zero (0). Once a person understands it, that friendship with Jesus is possible, friendship with Our Father, all commandments and all systems of commandments, and all structures of rules and regulations become so trivial as to be absurd. My friend is the almighty living God. Good grief what do I care about rules? All that I want is to live in the great joy of that friendship, and that great joy is the very, very, very simple fact of being a tiny part of His amazing, astounding, never ending love for all of us.

Friday 5/13 Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. [Acts 9:1-20](#) [Ps 117:1bc, 2](#) [Jn 6:52-59](#)

"Go out!" is a command to action, but true life, life in the Spirit, is a life of piety and a life of action. In it the piety always comes first. Piety must always come before we go into action. We must pray, pray, pray. If we do not then all our action is just do-do!

Thursday 5/12 Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. [Acts 8:26-40](#) [Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20](#) [Jn 6:44-51](#)

What is to keep us from being totally filled with Jesus? I think it is best summed up in Pogo's logic, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

Wednesday 5/11 Let all the earth cry out to God with joy. [Acts 8:1b-8](#) [Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a](#) [Jn 6:35-40](#)

Life in the Spirit may contain some discomfort, some pain and suffering, occasional confusion, even some doubt and lack of tranquility, but everything always ends in joy. It is the one clear certainty of life in the Spirit. Joy always comes. It always lies just beyond anything, absolutely anything, in life that seems not to contain it. Why? It is so very, very simple. We live immersed in joy. Joy is the reality of life. When we seem not to see or feel joy it is simply because we blinked, or slipped out of reality for a time. Patience in the life of a Christian is simply the gift of getting through those occasional lapses out of reality until God brings us back to our senses. He always does. He always will.

Tuesday 5/10 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. [Acts 7:51—8:1a](#) [Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab](#) [Jn 6:30-35](#)

For me there is a wonderful little message hidden in today's readings. "God is in control." He loves us so much that He simply cannot leave us to our own foolishness! Let me ask you a question. What percentage of children, given the opportunity would choose to live solely on peanut butter cookies? I do not know the answer, but if you tell me that it is X number of children, I can, with absolute certainty, tell you that 100-X is the percentage that would choose to live solely on chocolate chip cookies!!! Now I ask, what percentage of "good" mothers (I will not mention fathers here) would allow this to happen??? We are so quick to look at our disappointments and discomforts as scourges from the devil rather than wonderful signs of His great love protecting us from disaster at our own hands! Even such horrors as the stoning of brother Steven become grist for His wheel, turning out the finest flour for His wonderful bread in the lives of us poor sinners whom He in His great mercy loves so much. "Sir, give us this bread always." Then perhaps we will be properly thankful and can enjoy properly the cookies you send our way.

Monday 5/9 Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord! [Acts 6:8-15](#) [Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30](#) [Jn 6:22-29](#)

There is a very great problem and danger for those who have faith. It is the simple reality that some others do not. Having faith, being able to "see" that He is, gives such profound, yet simple, meaning to everything, well almost everything. The most difficult thing is understanding that the others cannot see it. Why do the "heathen" rage? Could it be my obstinence, my "cock-sure" insistence on the truth they cannot see, rather than their lack of insight, that riles them up? Insight can be proclaimed, it must be proclaimed, but it must be proclaimed in love. Faith is a gift given by the very Spirit of God. Would you tell another about faith? Listen to him! Would you help another see Jesus? Look carefully at him! Would you show another how to walk in faith? Walk with him! Would you proclaim that love is? Love him!

Saturday 5/7 Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. [Acts 6:1-7](#) [Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19](#) [Jn 6:16-21](#)

There is a little point I have always overlooked in today's gospel. Tiberias is about four or five miles across the Sea of Galilee from Capernaum, not a long way to row for the fishermen who followed Jesus. According to John, they had rowed three or four miles, in a rough sea, and apparently against a strong wind. They were certainly past the point of no return, but they were not there yet. Jesus, though he was afoot was overtaking them. Of course they were a little unnerved. Who wouldn't be? They invited Him into the boat with them, but immediately Jesus, the fishermen, and the boat were at their destination. This little story so parallels my experience of life. People have an idea where they are going and they set about getting there. Often they work away toiling against all sorts of obstacles until, somehow, often in the most unexpected places and by the most unexpected means they come to know Jesus is present. Of course they immediately invite Him into their project, probably for a variety of reasons that are much more numerous than the people involved. Suddenly they realize they have already arrived exactly where they need to be! Moral of the story: It just plainly doesn't matter if it's getting dark, wait a little bit. Don't leave Jesus behind. He is the One who knows where you are going!

Friday 5/6 One thing I seek: to dwell in the house of the Lord. [Acts 5:34-42](#) [Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14](#) [Jn 6:1-15](#)

Life in the Spirit is lived in a different place. The faith and hope that fill a soul alive in the Spirit cannot be garnered by any human effort, yet it is freely given to anyone willing to open his heart to it. Willingness is not a mental exercise. Willingness is a "doing" and "accepting" thing. It does not matter much what we think, or how we feel. Living in the Spirit is the art of doing with love each little task that life presents to us. Love is the key. God is love. Each loving act brings His presence and His presence cannot fail to bring faith, hope, and joy.

Thursday 5/5 The Lord hears the cry of the poor. [Acts 5:27-33](#) [Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20](#) [Jn 3:31-36](#)

The real question is not "Why do the heathen rage?", rather it is "Why do the Church people do so?"! Why do we fear each other? Why do we waste so much energy telling each other what to do? Why do we burden one another with the mistakes of the past? Why do we continue to take great pains to reduce God's Holy will to some elaborate formula, although we clearly (unless we are completely illiterate) know the truth that He is alive! Who are we trying to impress by our silly attempts to turn the simplicity of the Gospel of life into an endless list of do's and don'ts filling tome after thick tome. Why not leave all that silliness behind, take Him by the hand, step out in love and embrace this beautiful life in the joy and wonder that He intends it to be for us.

Wednesday 5/4 The Lord hears the cry of the poor. [Acts 5:17-26](#) [Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#) [Jn 3:16-21](#)

Come and live in the light!!! The people who live there, in the wonderful light of Jesus, go with great joy and happiness. They know where they are going. They can clearly see the way. Perhaps they cannot grasp all they see, but they can clearly see to take each step, and they can see and relish the glory and the beauty in their companions on the way. The people of the light find it hard to understand why anyone can possibly prefer darkness, but some do. Those who fear that their own brilliance will be lost in the light are terrified of it. On the other hand, a child of the light has come to grips with himself. He has come to understand the great truth that there is one source of all light. Not one of us is a beacon. We are all reflectors of the light. The brightest is the most highly polished mirror standing in the full light of the Son. So, the jailhouse doors are open. Come out into the light and shine.

Tuesday 5/3 Their message goes out through all the earth. [1 Cor 15:1-8](#) [Ps 19:2-3, 4-5](#) [Jn 14:6-14](#)

Feast of St Phillip and St James

God is at work at all times. He is. This in no way diminishes the importance of what we do. For Him time is of no consequence. We are the creatures of time. It is very simple. When we co-operate we hasten for us and our friends the time when His will comes to perfection. When we buck up and launch out contrary to Him we slow down for us and our friends the inevitable unfolding of His perfect plan. So how do we make sure we keep co-operating. His plan is written in our hearts in the simplicity of the rule of love. Whenever there is a little question, ask Jesus. Ask Jesus and then, for God's sake...no! for our sake, wait for an answer. It will not take long. He has promised!

Monday May 2 Blessed are all who take refuge in the Lord. [Acts 4:23-31](#) [Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9](#) [Jn 3:1-8](#)

Why do the heathen rage? Could it be because they are heathen? Could it be that rage is what makes them heathen? Could it be that "It is what it is."? Peace is God's way. Where God is there

is peace. There is peace because of the joy and love that is Him. No one conquers rage by becoming peaceful. Everyone becomes peaceful when the joy of the Lord fills their hearts with His Spirit of love.