

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



## Teach Us to Serve

Loving Father,  
you care for the human family  
with the gift of your Son,  
and by urging us  
to carry your love into the world.  
Make us attentive to Christ's example  
of service.  
Help us to follow him  
in announcing your reign.  
May we look to all the ministers of  
the early Church  
as models for our work  
among your holy people.  
Inspire us to be advocates for  
the poor,  
and make us mindful of the dignity  
of each human person.  
We ask this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sunday, May 18, 2014**  
**A Ministry of Service**

Today's Readings: Acts 6:1–7; Psalm 33:1–2, 4–5, 18–19 (22); 1 Peter 2:4–9; John 14:1–12. The entire life of Jesus was devoted to service. Many people reject a lifestyle of service as demeaning and depressing. And yet in the Church and through many caring professions, service has become a cornerstone of society. Early Christian communities understood the centrality of service. Today we hear of them appointing Stephen and six other deacons to serve those in need—especially widows and orphans, who were particularly vulnerable. Throughout the history of the Church, deacons and laypeople have carried on many varieties of service.

Do you have deacons serving in your faith community? Be sure to pray for them and support them in their ministry. In the Church, there are two kinds of deacons: transitional

(those moving toward ordained priesthood) and permanent (those who will remain as deacons in a life of service). Permanent deacons may be married, but if the wife dies, they may not remarry. In parishes, service is most often carried out by many laywomen and laymen. Many who serve share a deep vocation for their ministry.

Jesus showed us the way, the truth, and the life. All of us, by virtue of our Baptism, are called to lead others to Christ. We together, with bishops, priests, deacons, men and women religious, live out our baptismal ministry. Pray for the variety of ministries in the Church, and pray for unity among all whose shared ministry is to build up the resurrected Body of Christ.





## THIS WEEK AT HOME

### Monday, May 19

#### Give Glory to the Name

The first reading from Acts presents several brief and varied episodes from Paul and Barnabas's missionary activities: the Apostles heal a lame man in Lystra, but meet resistance in other places. Today's Responsorial Psalm reminds us, "Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory." Today's Readings: Acts 14:5-18; Psalm 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 (1ab); John 14:21-26.

### Tuesday, May 20

#### Saint Bernadine of Siena

Bernadine had the first three Greek letters of the name of Jesus inscribed as Gothic letters on a blazing sun. You will often find this inscription on a crucifix, above the head of Jesus. The disciples in the early Church proclaimed the name of Jesus and underwent many hardships. Today's reading from Acts describes the stoning of Paul. Jesus came to proclaim peace and tells us that our hearts should not be troubled: "Do not let them be afraid." Today's Readings: Acts 14:19-28; Psalm 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 (see 12); John 14:27-31a.

### Wednesday, May 21

#### Saint Christopher Magallanes

Christopher wrote and preached against the anti-Catholic armed rebellion in Mexico at the turn of the last century. He was part of the Cristero movement, and was martyred, along with twenty-two other priests and three laymen in 1927. Today's Readings: Acts 15:1-6; Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 (see 1); John 15:1-8.

### Thursday, May 22

#### Saint Rita of Cascia

Rita of Cascia, who died in 1457, was an Italian Augustinian nun, the patron of abused wives and mourning women. She herself was abused by her husband, and after his death and the death of her two sons, entered the Augustinian Order at the age of 36. In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds his disciples, and all of us, "If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." Rita lived this commandment throughout her life as a strong advocate for reconciliation among feuding families. Today's Readings: Acts 15:7-21; Psalm 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10 (3); John 15:9-11.

### Friday, May 23

#### Love One Another

The commandment "Love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12), is the summary of all Jesus's commandments. He offered his life for all. He loved us to the point of death and will love us to the very end. We are called friends, not slaves—a beautiful intimacy with God in Jesus, and with Jesus in us. We are grafted to the vine, and as such, are grafted into Jesus in faith, love, and obedient service for one another. In what ways are you bringing the love of Christ to those who do not know it? Today's Readings: Acts 15:22-31; Psalm 57:8-9, 10 and 12 (10a); John 15:12-17.

### Saturday, May 24

#### Called to Proclaim

Today's reading from Acts provides another episode in Paul's missionary journey. Having heard of Timothy's good reputation, Paul takes him as his assistant. We hear that the Holy Spirit has forbidden them to speak the Word in Asia, that Paul has a vision of a man imploring him to come to Macedonia. Paul and Timothy felt directed by God and called to proclaim the Good News at every step. How do you feel God's direction in your life? Today's Readings: Acts 16:1-10; Psalm 100:1b-2, 3, 5 (2a); John 15:18-21.



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*Keeping the Seasons*

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