

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith in Laity Corner*



*Year 1/Cycle A*

*Monday, May 21, 2017*  
*Easter 6*

*Acts 8:5-17; 1Pt. 3:15-18; Jn.14:15-21*

### *A Heeding Call or Summons?*

As we approach the acknowledgement that Jesus Christ who lived on earth for 33 years, suffered in agony, died on the Cross and rose again; is preparing to return to the home of His Father-heaven. There all human suffering has been vanquished and the victory over sin and death has been won. I extend my humble apologies readers for forgetting to wish - **Happy Mothering Day** greetings. I guess my thoughts on building strong foundations was so urgent that my thoughts omitted the focus that all *mothering* is part of building a solid foundation in human relationships.

This week in the Readings of the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday during the season of Easter, the ‘spirit’ has moved me to another point. Today let us examine the words ‘**call**’ vs. ‘**summons**’. As believers in our Lord Jesus Christ through the sacramental rite of Baptism, we are all called to follow the footsteps of Jesus. As children we take the lead of our parents in our calling. In adulthood we have to hear the call to be a follower of Jesus. Often as adults we prefer to pick and choose what we are willing to follow, when we hear the call.

*“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts...” (1Pt. 3:1)*

Now let us explore the deeper meaning here. We are called by the rite of Baptism to keep Christ as the holy person central in our being, our spiritual orbit, in our hearts. How many of us, hear this call? How many of us heed this call? There is a difference between hearing and heeding; we can hear clearly, but heed not at all!!

*“With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip.” (Acts 8:6)*

The people of Samaria (*remember were hated by the Jews, because they intermarried with non-Jews*), heard the call and they heeded, taking it one step further – they acted upon the call.

*“They began to believe Philip as he preached the Good News about the kingdom of God.” (Acts 8:12)*

As people listened to the words of Phillip, miracles occurred because of the strength of **faith** the people demonstrated on hearing the Good News. So when called by God -we need to hear, heed and believe. With the power of our faith/belief- WE ACT. There is no way we can have strength of belief/faith and sit, doing nothing. When we do nothing, we have to check what is our weakness- our hearing, our heeding, our believing? After the Samaritans heard Phillip, they knew it was not possible to continue in the 'old' manner, they had to demonstrate there was a change.

*“Men and women alike were baptized.” (Acts 8:12)*

Baptism became the action-sign of their change. There is no doubt that when we hear the call, heed the call and believe the *Jesus call* we HAVE TO MOVE. Are you moving yet?????

When we have responded to the call, actions follow. Yet, God is not finished with us!!! Call to action is the beginning, Jesus always takes us a step further... He will summons us to a specific task. You heard-- summons..... We know that if a call comes that we owe a specific amount of money, there is time to investigate if payment should be made or denied. However, if we receive a court summons, now that requires an immediate response, not so? Just think for a moment saints Jude, Mother Theresa, Padre Pio, Francis, Peter Claver, Martin de Porres Juan Diego, Faustina ..... these well-known saints were not moving on a call..... God **summoned** them to do more, more and more, than any of us could imagine. They were in a place, that God commanded them to act for His people- a summons.

*“Philip went down to [the] city of Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah.” (Acts 8:5)*

Phillip was not only called; he was summoned to act for God to reach others. Simon a new convert was summoned to put himself at the service of Phillip..... Moses, David, Elijah, Noah, Job, these great Biblical men were summoned. Yes, God moves His strong believers who **acted** on His call, they are now summoned to reach many, many more, to share the Good News to the world.

*“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always...” (Jn. 14:16)*

As we **act** in sharing the Good News, we will be summons by God under the power of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit who will give us the **fire** to do God's work anywhere in the world. When summoned we need not worry of what we will say, or how to find the answer.... The Holy Spirit will enable us to

*“Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.” (1 Pt. 3:15)*

**Question: Are you ready for God to summon you, or are you still trying to decide to heed His call? Your eternal life depends on your response.....**

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**Let us ask the Holy Spirit to move us to hear God's summoning us to do His Will.**

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by

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