

John 14:6-14

St. Philip May 2/21

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Since the pandemic started
I have been working on my memoirs
and in the course of that
I have taken a renewed interest
in my catalogue of pictures,
family, and friends .

They remind me of my past.
They awaken my memories
and I find comfort
and inspiration from them.

In today's gospel Philip said to Jesus,
**Lord, show us the Father,
and we will be satisfied.**

Jesus said to him,

**Have I been with you all this time, Philip,
and you still do not know me? Whoever
has seen me has seen the Father.**

We know Jesus
through his words and actions in the Bible.
The parables, his teachings
and his actions inform us in so many ways.

The events through Holy Week
and Easter reveal his
Passion, Death and Resurrection.
They are events of history
recorded in the lives
of his followers and believers.

Our past unfolds through our stories,
our memories and we often
display them in the pictures
we share on our walls,
and desks and shelves.

They are our reminders
and speak to us of our past
and present reality.

Like our personal pictures,
the pictures or icons that
the Church portrays
in windows and paintings
remind us of our spiritual ancestors,
those who have shaped
and formed our lives.

They pass on to us the faith
that was given them.
They guide and point us to Christ.

They are the ones
who love and pray for us.
They are the ones we love
and for whom we pray.

St. Philip is one of them.
He is our ancestor in the faith.
We are the beneficiaries of his life,
faith and prayers.

We join our voices with his
and those of the angels,
archangels and all the company of heaven
who proclaim the glory of God's name.

The words of scripture
we heard in this morning's gospel
capture the image of Jesus
and Philip standing together.

Those words and those images
come together to tell a common story.

It is the story of humanity's
deepest longing for meaning!

Our longing is manifested
by our restlessness,
by our sense of emptiness,
by our search for meaning and
significance.

Philip expresses
the universal desire of humanity;
to stand in the presence of holiness,
to behold God and to be satisfied.

Philip reminds us, however,
that true satisfaction
is not found in our accomplishments,
acquisitions or what we do for ourselves.

Satisfaction is not about filling a void.
It is about stepping into a new life,
God's life.

It is only in seeing the Father,
that we are healed and made whole,
our life is made complete
and we are perfected in the image
and likeness of God.

In that moment of seeing
we are satisfied
and we know ourselves to be enough.
Nothing is lacking.

Jesus assures us and Philip.
**Whoever has seen me has seen the
Father...I am in the Father
and the Father is in me.**

Jesus is the one, the portrait,
the revealer of the Father.
To see the Father in and through Jesus
is the fullness of life.

The satisfaction of our lives
cannot be earned.
We awaken to it.
We discover it.
It is the gift of God for the people of God.

That's what Philip discovered.
The satisfaction he so wanted
was already his because he is Christ's.
He only needed to learn to see.

The pictures that we cling to
and display in our lives
and memories, remind us
to open our eyes to see.

That's what Jesus did for Philip.
That's what Jesus and Philip do for us.

The other apostle
we remember today is James,
son of Alphaeus.

The reality is even less is known about this James.

The fact that Jesus chose both men to be one of his apostles is significant.

This James is not James of Acts, son of Clopas, 'brother' of Jesus and later bishop of Jerusalem and the traditional author of the letter of James.

This James, son of Alphaeus, is also known as James the Lesser. This is to avoid confusing him with James the son of Zebedee, also an apostle and known as James the Greater.

As in the case of the other apostles, we see in James and Philip, human men who became foundation stones of the Church.

We are reminded again
that holiness and our life as Christians
are entirely the gift of God,
and not a matter of human achieving.

All power is God's power,
even the power of human freedom
to accept his gifts.

**You will be clothed
with power from on high,
Jesus told Philip and the others.**

Each one of us, like the apostles
are invited to open our eyes
In faith and humble obedience.

When asked by Philip in today's gospel:
**Lord, show us the Father,
and we will be satisfied.**

Jesus said to him:

**Have I been with you all this time Philip,
and you still do not know me?**

**Whoever has seen me has seen the
Father. How can you say, 'Show us the
Father?'**

You and I are
in the community of faith
through our Baptism,
and are members one of another.

Unlike Philip,
who walked this earth with Jesus,
we rely on his witness
and that of the saints of every age,
who faithfully passed on
their witness to us.

They did this through Scriptures,
tradition, in the Church and sacraments.

They are the people of faith
gathered in the name of God,
'Father, Son and Holy Spirit.'

So no matter how imperfect,
such a community is
in living up to our commission,
to show God's saving
love in Jesus to the world,
we know like Philip and the other disciples
we, as well, are not perfect.

But we have the assurance in Christ,
that we like the apostles of old,
are redeemed through
Jesus' sacrificial love and resurrection.

One of the important revelations
to me in the writing of my memoirs is -

To reflect again on my journey of faith,
*to reflect upon my ministry of 56 years-
*to reflect on God's gift to me of his Grace
*and to remember those who walk with me
in this faith community,
we are privileged to share in at St. Jude's.

May God be reflected in our life of faith.
Amen