

Homily for the 5th Sunday of Easter

May 10, 2020

By Nick Thompson

“The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.” Names recorded for all eternity in the necrology of ordained ministers of the church. The Church chose seven men, the magnificent seven filled with Spirit and Wisdom to become servants of the servants of God. The first Deacons of Christian Community. Moses chose 70 upon whom to place a piece of the Spirit God had given him. Jesus sent out 72 to all the surrounding cities to spread the good news. And now, this both ancient and fledgling church called in Antioch for the first time Christian would ordain seven to care for the needs of the people of the church, the people of God.

St. Theresa of Avila wrote, “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the

feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

“Like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” Jesus the way, the truth and the life calls all mankind to become a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of His own. We through our Baptism are called to be the stepping-stones, showing the way to heaven along the path of life. Written upon these stones are the acts of mercy we perform to build up the body that is Christ, the living Word. It is these Words of Truth our words our actions that Christ left behind for future generations to follow. We the living word pass on His way, His truth His life everlasting.

We are called to become the stepping-stones for the generations to come. We are called to build up the minds of our families, our friends, all whom we meet along the way. Build them up into the city of God through the truth of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ the living Word. We are the light to the nations burning with Spirit and Wisdom. Just as we hear in Psalm 22, “Upright is the Word of the Lord and all his works are trustworthy. He loves justice and right of the kindness of the Lord the earth is full.” Because we believe We are in him just as he is in his Father and His Father is within us because the Holy Spirit dwells

within us. It is time to inscribe our words and actions upon the living stones of the people of God. Ours are the hands, the feet, the eyes the body of Christ today. Will our names be found on the lips of generations to come?