

**Thursday, May 28, 2020; Seventh Week of Easter**

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Psalm 15(16):1-2, 5, 7-11; John 17:20-26

“Courage! You have borne witness for me in Jerusalem, now you must do the same in Rome.”

In his prayer, Jesus included disciples of every place and time in the blessings he sought from the Father. He prayed for them to be united in firm faith. He also reinforced his prayer for the grace of communion for all disciples, that, as a group and as individuals, we may be in eternal communion with the Blessed Trinity.

Through the action of the Holy Spirit, that grace is sustained and endures until that day when we are with Jesus where he is in his glory, having gone ahead to prepare a place for us. It is, therefore, our responsibility as disciples to shun all distractions and live in tune with the demands of the discipline of discipleship, so we may be beneficiaries of the blessings of Christ’s priestly prayer, here in this life and in the world to come. As such, we must live in constant witness to Christ like Saint Paul and the early disciples, whose stories we have heard since Easter, trusting that true witnesses to Christ and the gospel never lack the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit, who oversees the disciple’s journey, turn after turn.

Spirit of unity and strength; Abide with us. Amen.

Fr. Maurice