

Saturday, May 2, 2020; Third Week of Easter

St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor

Acts 9:31-42; Psalm 115(116):12-17; John 6:60-69

“What about you, do you want to go away too?”

Tough times test genuine friendship. Tough times test our faith in God. Fair-weather discipleship abounds. When life's going is smooth, God is wonderful. When we stumble and things get rough, we doubt God's existence; “God, where are you?” we ask. Those who benefitted from the free food that Jesus offered later deserted him. They left, having found his teaching on the gift of his flesh and blood as real food unacceptable. Our faith in the Eucharist is non-negotiable. We believe that Jesus is truly present in the Blessed Sacrament; we receive him, body, blood, soul and divinity, at every Eucharistic encounter. That nourishment sustains our staying power through tough times and despite challenges. Do you have the staying power of faith? That was Jesus' question. Peter answered for us: “To whom shall we go?” Peter's staying power helped his reconciliation with Christ after the resurrection. He went on to do many great things as evident in today's first reading. In Christ, we have one, who traverses life and death. He has power to bring us beyond the most befuddling of human challenges to the gift of eternal life.

Father, raise us and our world up with the Christ, our Savior. Amen.

--Fr. Maurice, Parochial Vicar