

Friday, May 22, 2020; Sixth Week of Easter

St. Rita of Cascia

Acts 18:9-18; Psalm 46(47):2-7; John 16:20-23

“Do not be afraid to speak out, nor allow yourself to be silenced: I am with you.”

Amidst his troubles during his journeys proclaiming God’s word, Paul had times when he was so uncertain of what awaited him in each place and time. He endured so much violence. But the Lord constantly encouraged and reassured Paul, as in today’s reading, of his abiding presence. He did not extract Paul from his troubles. He worked and walked with Paul through them. Sometimes, God even congratulated Paul for holding firm, only to inform him that there was more trouble ahead. Most importantly, however, Paul would never be alone; God was with him all through.

That companionship was the special role of the Holy Spirit in the community of Christ’s disciples. Little wonder Jesus instructed the disciples to spend the time between his Ascension and Pentecost in prayerful wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let us spend the time leading to Pentecost in prayer, asking for a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our world, church, families, and ourselves. Take part in a Pentecost Novena. Make a personal time for daily prayer to the Holy Spirit; invite him into your home and life.

Spirit of courage and strength. Abide with us. Amen.

Fr. Maurice