

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17,20-26
Ps 103:(19a) 1-2,
11-12,19-20
1 John 4:11-16
John 17:11b-19

Monday May 14 St. Matthias

Acts 1:15-17,20-26
Ps 113:1-8
John 15:9-17

Tuesday May 15

Acts 20:17-27
Ps 68:10-11,20-21
John 17:1-11a

Wednesday May 16

Acts 20:28-38
Ps 68:29-30,33-36
John 17:11b-19

Thursday May 17

Acts 22:30- 23:6-11
Ps 16:1-2a,5,7-11
John 17:20-26

Friday May 18

Acts 25:13b-21
Ps 103:1-2,11-12,19-20
John 21:15-19

Saturday May 19

Acts 28:16-20,30-31
Ps 11:4,5,7
John 21:20-25

What makes us one with our brothers and sisters of the faith, i.e., people who love and follow the same Lord Jesus?

We can have many differences and still have unity. We can have conflicts among the people who serve God in parish staffs and ministries, and still have unity. We can disagree with the non-Catholic beliefs of our Protestant kin and still have Christian unity.

Jesus prayed for this unity, as we see in this Sunday's Gospel reading. Are we the answer to his prayer? Or are we working against him?

Being one in the Lord does not require getting rid of everything that divides us from each other. Rather, it comes from recognizing that we stand on common ground as we worship Christ, no matter how differently we worship

him. The spirit of unity is the appreciation of what we have in common. It's the recognition that we are individually members of the same body and that we need each other so that the Body of Christ on earth functions well.

Being one in the Lord means being different than the rest of the world. Our unity comes from belonging to the kingdom of God rather than to the kingdom of darkness and evil. And this unity is strengthened by purging ourselves of sin — individually and as a body.



Jesus said to the Father, "I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world."

All those who love, follow, and serve Jesus, regardless of their denominational affiliations, are all members of the same family, the Holy Family. We live together on the same

side of the cross, which is resurrection and eternal life.

However, when we allow ourselves to sin, thinking as the world thinks, with prejudices and judgmentalism and condemnation toward other Christians, we divide ourselves not only from our brothers and sisters but also from God's kingdom of love. We break the unity for which Jesus prayed.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Do you see yourself as united with or divided from those in your parish who worship differently than you? What about Christians of other denominations? Who else do you feel spiritually divided from?
2. Ask Jesus to repeat his prayer for unity but to focus it, this time, on you.
3. What are some of the ways that you've come to recognize your unity with other members of the Body of Christ, despite obvious differences?
4. What does "unity" mean to you? How is this lived in your home or your parish?