

May 13-14, 2017
Fifth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day Weekend
Acts 6:1-7 First Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12

The lyrics from 'Closing Time' have a kernel of wisdom within them: 'Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end.' With assorted graduations, weddings and clergy transitions occurring all around us (both Fr. Dave from San Antonio and Fr. Jeff from St. Martin's are becoming 'administrators' of parishes...the first step to becoming full-fledged Pastors) our Scriptures give a hint of another transition about to occur for the early Church, the conclusion of the post-Resurrection appearances of the physical Jesus as celebrated within the Ascension. The early Christian Community (they did not yet call themselves Catholic...and only newly/barely Christian) had experienced enough ups and downs to last a lifetime: encountering Jesus when they were already well settled in their lives/careers; becoming Jesus' disciples and foregoing their old ways of life; being challenged to understand God in a whole different way than their Jewish roots had predisposed them; getting their hopes up and then watching them be stretch out on a cross to die on Good Friday; coming to terms with the Resurrection even when they did not fathom the how or what of it; feeling relived to have Jesus back in their midst only to have him ASCEND/depart; being sent forth to let the world know what they had just lived. Lots of beginnings and endings and within them each, the grace of God was buried like a seed awaiting water and sun in order to bloom. They came to accept that life as a DISCIPLE was one of continual transition...continually BECOMING. Approaching Ascension Weekend (Memorial Weekend) these are good days in which to review our own arrivals and departures, expected and unforeseen. How have they shaped us? What pathways were closed to us because of past beginnings and endings; what new trails were opened for our discovery through the fresh starts from 'some other beginnings end?' The early Church took great care to REMEMBER how they came to be who they were becoming; how did you come to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God? What beginnings ended so that fresh beginnings could occur that have 'called you out of darkness into HIS wonderful light?'

Thank you for sharing this Fifth Sunday of Easter....and MOTHER'S DAY weekend with our Santa Clara community. No sooner did we accept last week's Washington, D.C. Basilica second collection than next week another one emerges: the 'Parishes in Collaboration' special collection. Intended to provide funding for local parish communities here in Orange County that are financially challenged, this is a MOST worthwhile collection to which to give....so, if you have some extra cash, your generosity is appreciated. To the MOTHERS among us and for the moms who now dwell in memory and God-willing, heaven, may this be a special day of blessing, comfort and contentment for you!! THANK YOU for the gift of life. Whether you are heading to a Mother's Day brunch or just doing usual weekend stuff, please know that you are loved. FKB