

"Peace Be With You"

This Week's Readings at Mass

- Acts 5:12-16 - Signs and wonders
- Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 - First vision
- John 20:19-31 - Appearance to the disciples; Thomas

So many times in Scripture when an angel or Jesus approach a person or a group with a task, we are told that they are afraid or are living in fear, as the disciples were in this reading. For example, it happened to Isaiah when an angel asked him to be a prophet. It happened to Mary when the angel Gabriel asked her to bear Jesus. It happened to Peter when Jesus asked him to follow and be a fisherman of people. Whether it is an angel or Jesus appearing, each begins their address with words of reassurance: "Do not be afraid," or in this case, "Peace be with you."

The ones being visited aren't shamed or reprimanded for being afraid. Only after their fear is acknowledged are they given their task. For the disciples who are still hiding out in fear for their lives, Jesus sends them to do exactly what they are afraid to do—leave their hiding place, go public, and do what God sent Jesus to do.

Maybe they are still afraid. Maybe their voices shake a bit when they first begin to proclaim Jesus' message. Maybe they don't feel worthy to still be a follower of Jesus. Maybe they doubt their ability to bring hope and healing to those who need it, but they still go. The first reading from the Acts of Apostles tells us some of what the apostles were able to accomplish once they left that locked room.

They cured sick people and cast out demons, just as Jesus had promised them they would. To do that, they had to move way out of their comfort zone, but re-



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"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Sheepish Question:
Through which senses have I experienced the Holy Spirit this week?

membering Jesus' words "Peace be with you" helped them to do it.

Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you had an experience of being called to do something that scared you? What helped you to do it?
- 2 Is there an area of your life now in which God is inviting you to be more courageous and trusting?

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