

From the Pastor's Office

5th Sunday of Easter

I have to marvel at the dedication of the early disciples. Before there was a Vatican and papal authority, the disciples of Jesus were scattered all over the place, preaching the message of Jesus. These disciples went to some very remote places. There was no backup. There was no emergency number to call. They were on their own. Thank God they had Paul and Barnabas with them. They were very much the team leaders. They stayed in control. They kept morale up, and they kept going. Acts of the Apostles tells us, "They strengthened the spirits of the disciples and exhorted them to persevere in the faith." When you have to endure hardship and toil, it is very hard to keep going. That is why teamwork matters so much. The team leaders must make sure to support the other members of the team. This missionary journey took the missionaries into what was then called Asia Minor. This is modern day Turkey. The place is full of high mountains and isolated villages. Their world is full of mountains and valleys. How do you keep your spirits up? How do you keep going? We remind ourselves that they are empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit. This is their spiritual fuel. Nothing is going to stop them now. People came out all over the place to hear the preaching of these missionaries. They had never heard anything like this before. Jesus of Nazareth, the one they killed in Jerusalem. He has risen from the dead. I bet that got their attention. Our Christian message is very radical. It is capable of turning the world upside down. What do you mean, be reconciled with your enemy? What do you mean I should love my enemy? What do you mean I should empty my barns and give from my bounty to the poor? Never heard anyone else speak like that before. Surely, the grace of God radiated from these Christian missionaries. Why were they so determined to keep going? It is by the power of the Spirit of God that they kept going. Nothing was going to stop them, nothing.



With love,
Fr. Pat