



Daily Reflections

April 29, 2017

Scripture

Acts 6: 1-7

As the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

So the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the Apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Our Scripture Reflection

Members of the early Church encountered obstacle after obstacle it seems. And how did they deal with an obstacle? They stopped and prayed. Through their ardent prayer, The Holy Spirit led them through the most difficult of problems. He can and will do the same for you IF you stop, pray and listen.

Food for your Journey

When somebody asked one of our men, Peter, if he liked to pray, he said that he did. So the person continued and asked him what he did when he prayed.

He replied, "I listen."

Then the person asked what God says to him. Peter, a man with Down Syndrome, looked up and said: "He just says, 'You are my beloved son.'"

When someone has lived most of his or her life in the last place, and then discovers that Jesus is there in the last place as well, it is truly good news.

--Jean Vanier, *From Brokenness to Community* (Paulist, 1992), 22-23. Vanier is the founder of the L'Arche Communities, which provide a loving home for people with severe mental disabilities like Peter.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, When I find myself overwhelmed at times, help me to imitate the early disciples. May I learn to stop, pray, and listen. Amen.