



Daily Reflections

December 26, 2017

Scripture

Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59

Stephen, filled with grace and power,
was working great wonders and signs among the people.
Certain members of the so-called Synagogue of Freedmen,
Cyrenians, and Alexandrians,
and people from Cilicia and Asia,
came forward and debated with Stephen,
but they could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke.
When they heard this, they were infuriated,
and they ground their teeth at him.
But he, filled with the Holy Spirit,
looked up intently to heaven
and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,
and he said,
"Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man
standing at the right hand of God."
But they cried out in a loud voice, covered their ears,
and rushed upon him together.
They threw him out of the city, and began to stone him.
The witnesses laid down their cloaks
at the feet of a young man named Saul.
As they were stoning Stephen, he called out
"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today is December 26 the day after Christmas. And on this day the Church commemorates the feast of its very first martyr, Stephen. But why a martyr's feast when we just celebrated the birth of the Baby?? This feast serves as a reminder as to what may happen to one who seriously follows the Baby as He grows into a Man.. The Baby became our Savior and it cost Him everything to do so. Those who truly follow Him can expect to experience the same.

Food for your Journey

A woman who was just released from Tampa General Hospital probably received the best Christmas present of anyone in the city. It came early, a week ago today to be exact. In August, she was diagnosed with severe cardiomyopathy, a rare heart disorder which causes the muscles of the heart to become inflexible. It's generally terminal. The only medical cure is a heart transplant.

Over the past five months, she has become progressively weaker. More and more of her active life has been taken from her as she waits for the possibility of a new heart. At 2:00 on a dark, cold morning, she was awakened and told that the new heart was on its way. By 4:00 the heart was in place, and by 10:00 the next morning, she was out of surgery and in the ICU.

When I visited with her a couple of days later, we talked about the gift of this new heart. She said, "You know, this was the second time that someone died for me."

-- James A. Harnish,

"An Explosion of Joy,"

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, As I celebrate Your birth may I never lose sight of the fact that You gave everything for my salvation. May I remember that the seeds of the Cross were planted in the Crib. Amen.