



# Daily Reflections

**June 11, 2018**

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## Scripture

**Acts 11: 21-26; 12: 1-3**

In those days a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the Church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians. Now there were in the Church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.

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## **Our Scripture Reflection**

“And a large number of people was added to the Lord”: Please remember, there were no cell phones, I Pads, cars, trucks or even interstates in Barnabas’ day....and the Gospel spread like wildfire. How So? They were filled with the Holy Spirit and they used their faith to witness to Jesus. They made the Gospel of Jesus alive. People saw and heard the witnesses and they were convinced. The great news for today....we can do the same thing here and now!

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## **Food for your Journey**

In one of his lectures, Norman Vincent Peale describes the world-changing impact of Jesus' resurrection by alluding to a certain Spanish coin of the 15th century. It pictured the famed Pillars of Hercules -- the Rock of Gibraltar and its opposite number on the African side -- that guard the narrow strait between the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Below the picture appeared the Latin phrase, "ne plus ultra," meaning "no more beyond."

Peale observes that, to Spanish mariners of that time, there truly was nothing beyond. To continue due west after passing through the Strait of Gibraltar was to risk a terrible fate.

Then, along came Columbus, whose discovery caused a slightly revised coin to be minted. The little word "ne" was removed, so it read "Plus Ultra": more beyond.

Sometimes experience forces us to remake our maps.

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## **A Prayer from the Heart**

Gracious God, Pour forth Your Holy Spirit upon me this day so that my faith may be enlivened. Through my words and actions may people come to know and believe in Your Son, Jesus. Amen