

5th Sunday of Easter: May 10, 2020

St. Vincent de Paul Church, Baltimore

Reflection on the Gospel John 14: 1-12

Paul and I love to take road trips. We pile ourselves and our stuff into our van and head out, usually only with a vague itinerary. When it comes to navigation, we take the ‘belts and suspenders’ approach. We can never have too many paper maps or too many navigation apps to help us find our way. And despite the cliché, we still often stop to ask for directions. You can imagine, we don’t always agree on what the ‘way’ is.

In today’s Gospel, Thomas is seeking a road map when he asks “... we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus responds with one navigational choice for our lives: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” Seemingly simple. It should be easy. But like Philip, we are confused and often say “Show us.....” And we like Philip and Thomas can hear the exasperation when Jesus responds, “Have I been with you so long a time and you still do not know me...?”

Jesus has established a relationship with the Father, and through our Baptism welcomes us to share that same relationship as well as be in communion with each other. For many of us, our Baptism was long ago as infants so Jesus has been with us a long time too. Even though we often renew our baptismal vows (especially at Eastertide), perhaps we still do not know Jesus or have become complacent or just need confirmation of our journey. Like the disciples, we may need a nudge or re-navigation or a complete turnaround in order to live our priesthood by reflecting Jesus through our thoughts, words, and actions. Perhaps it is time to recommit to our Mission Statement:

To love, serve and challenge one another
To sustain the Earth, our neighbors near and far,
the poor, the marginalized
To be healing instruments of justice and peace

Valerie Rolandelli