
Scripture Reflection

One of the greatest joys of the Easter season is how it unites our Church.

In **Acts 5:12-16**, we see exactly how the benevolence of Christ brings us together. “A large number of people from the towns in the vicinity of Jerusalem also gathered, bringing the sick and those disturbed by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.” When the apostles performed wonderful acts in the name of Jesus, they not only filled the hearts of each of the cured and their families with God’s love, but in turn those who felt the unlimited power of the Lord went forth and spread the Gospel.

It is our joyful duty as the Lord’s eager servants to share His love and act as stewards of His gifts. After Jesus was resurrected, His disciples were huddled in fear of persecution. But in **John 20:21**, He appeared to them and said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

We must go forth in the Lord’s name, knowing there is nothing to fear. As He proclaimed in **Revelation 1:17-18**, “Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld.”

God makes it clear that, through our faith and service, we have nothing to fear and everything to gain when we let His love guide us and shape us in His will. We can act as stewards of the Lord’s benevolence by giving to the *Annual Catholic Appeal*. Let us serve the Lord with gladness through this opportunity to help break down the divisions in our communities and bring us together as family, **Brothers and Sisters All**.

Please give to the *Appeal* <<date and place>> or visit aca.archstl.org to learn more about how the *Appeal* helps our brothers and sisters in need overcome the obstacles they face. You can also Text-to-Give by texting “ACA” to 243725.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement

This week, we launch the 2022 *Annual Catholic Appeal* in our parish. As the Apostles preached the Good News to people from every nation in this week’s Gospel, we are called to do the same to all of our brothers and sisters. The *Annual Catholic Appeal* helps us to do that. Please make your gift to the *Annual Catholic Appeal*. You can pick up your pledge card after Mass, make a gift online at aca.archstl.org or use Text-to-Give by texting “ACA” to 243725.