



ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

READING

ACTS 9:1-9

¹ Now Saul, still breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, that, if he should find any men or women who belonged to the Way,³ he might bring them back to Jerusalem in chains. ³ On his journey, as he was nearing Damascus, a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵ He said, "Who are you, sir?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." ⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, for they heard the voice but could see no one. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was unable to see, and he neither ate nor drank.

BRIEF REFLECTION (GIVEN BY LEADER)

JOY OF THE GOSPEL

PARAGRAPH 120

In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. *Mt* 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah!" (*Jn* 1:41). The Samaritan woman became a missionary immediately after speaking with Jesus and many Samaritans come to believe in him "because of the woman's testimony" (*Jn* 4:39). So too, Saint Paul, after his encounter with Jesus Christ, "immediately proclaimed Jesus" (*Acts* 9:20; cf. 22:6-21). So what are we waiting for?

QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

How has the lord called you to conversion?

In what areas of your life is he continuing to call you to conversion?

Paul's conversion & baptism leads him to immediately to mission - telling all he encounters about Christ. How has your own conversion led you to mission?