

## **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter homily**

**Philip, do you remember who Philip is? He is one of the original 12 apostles.**

**In last Sunday's gospel he gets into a dialogue with Jesus at the Last Supper. Philip makes a request of Jesus: Master show us the Father. Jesus is a little upset. "How can you say, show us the Father. Do you know that when you see me you see the Father? Know I am in the Father and I am in the Father is in me. Or else, believe because of the works that I do. Amen, Amen I say to you, whoever believes will do greater ones than I do because I am going to the Father.**

**In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles today we see Philip after the resurrection of Jesus fully committed to the ministry. Philip goes down to into "enemy territory" to Samaria and proclaimed the Christ to them. Philip dispels unclean spirits, cures those who were crippled. There was great joy in the city.**

**This passage from the Acts of the Apostles makes it very clear. Philip has made the spiritual journey from doubt (show us the Father) to belief that the Lord was risen and with him.**

**Philip shows forth the works of the risen Lord to others.**

**(Pause)**

**Throughout the ages the works of the risen Lord have continued through the witness of those who have made the spiritual journey from doubt to belief in the risen Lord**

- **Hospitals and clinics (Haiti)**
- **Schools in mission territories (Africa)**
- **Orphanages**
- **St Christine Soup Kitchen (Detroit)**

**As Jesus said, “and they will do even greater works than I did.”**

**But what about you?**

**What about me?**

**We are in the midst of our Easter season: we like the first disciples of Jesus, are on the journey which questions whether Jesus is risen and with us and ends with witnessing in his name.**

**Our Easter theme this year is: Christ, in me, Arise!**

**As Jesus said to Philip in last week’s gospel reading?, “I am in the Father and you are in me and I am in you!!!!??? ...”**

**I kept asking myself all week: Why is it so hard for Americans to believe the good news that Christ is in us and we live in him and that we are all one with the Father?**

- **I believe it is because we live in a ME world.**
- **We live in a self-centered world.**
- **We think fullness of life is total independence and if possible, isolation from the problems of life.**
- **We seek total bliss BY OURSELVES AND WITH ONLY OURSELVES AND THOSE LIKE US.**

**But this way of thinking is a heresy. From the very beginning of our existence it is not that way. Nature itself tells us so.**

**Take for instance, our life in the womb: Our lives are totally intertwined with others. Our very genes come from mother and father. In the womb our mother supplies food and oxygen and warmth. We are one with our mother; our mother is one with us.**

**When we are physically born into this world, we come screaming for attention. We want to be cleaned, fed, held and loved. We want to be part of a caring family and surrounded by friends and good neighbors. We learn from others, play with others, grow with others.**

**But somewhere in life we pick up the false message that to truly be happy, to be truly free, we need to be independent, alone, totally self-sufficient. Maybe it begins with the terrible twos when we learn to say “NO” for the first time, or maybe it is in our teen years.**

**Somewhere in life we seem to rebel from the fact that we are**

**interdependent with one another and with nature, that we need laws and guidelines and commandments to live in harmony with each other.**

**Simply stated, our original sin is believing that we do not need others, we don't need God, we can make it on our own.**

**And so it is no surprise that when it comes to believing Jesus' words that He is risen and with us, that he is in the Father and the Father is in him, we mere mortals, who are striving for independence from everything and everyone, have trouble believing that through the life, death and resurrection of Christ, we are invited to be part of the household of God, and that God' Spirit dwells in us.**

**Yet, slowly, so slowly, we come to believe what Jesus told Philip: we are not alone; we are all one in Christ and Christ is one in God. We come to proclaim the words: Christ, in me Arise!**

**(Pause)**

**We find many examples of people coming to truly believe that the risen Lord is active in and through them:**

- **Belief in the power of the risen Christ allowed Philip to invite a whole group of Samaritans to the family of God.**
- **Belief in the power of the risen Christ freed the spirit of our newly elected pope to wash the feet Muslim women in a detention home in Rome last Holy Thursday.**

- **Belief in the power of the risen Christ allowed twenty members of Corpus Christi to bond with our neighborhood and participate in the 2014 O’Hair Park clean up last Saturday.**
- **Today, in our very midst, God is calling someone to do greater works than Philip. Maybe to follow him into a special life of service and ministry.**

**Yes, Jesus said that those who believe in him will do even GREATER works than he did.**

**My brothers and sisters, the world awaits Good News.**

**The world awaits faithful messengers.**

**Risen Lord, speak to me.**

**Christ embrace me!**

**Give me the courage and faith of Philip.**

**Christ call me forth to witness in your name.**

**Christ, in me, Arise!**