

In this period of "Ordinary Time" we pray you will discover a new awareness of God's Word and God's love and presence in your lives through these reflections.



Our Lady of the Fields Church
Scriptural Review & Reflections
Saturday & Sunday July 15 & 16, 2017

For more information on any of the parish Faith Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization and Faith Formation Office & Staff or Dr. Little at tlittle@olfparish.com

Looking More Deeply into "An Evangelizing Community"

When invited, Philip climbed into the Ethiopian's chariot and rode along with him. The ride gave the Ethiopian the opportunity to ask questions and Philip the chance to speak and answer. How can we figuratively get into someone's chariot and ride along so that we have the opportunity to tell the good news about Jesus Christ? How can we be a "ready" evangelizing community?

In 2012, Pope Benedict XVI called a Synod of Bishops to address the theme of our call to the Evangelization and Transmission of our Faith. Great propositions came from this Synod and in the Apostolic Exhortation, Evangelii Gaudium, (24), Pope Francis wrote:

"An evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary, it embraces human life and touches the suffering flesh of Christ in others. An evangelizing community supports people at every step of the way, no matter how difficult or lengthy a process this may prove to be. An evangelizing community is always concerned with fruit – the Lord wants her to be fruitful. "

We know that the Holy Spirit is the principle agent of evangelization! And, Pope Francis reminds us ..."there is no greater freedom than of allowing oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit, renouncing the attempt to plan and control everything to the last detail, and instead letting God enlighten, guide and direct us, leading us wherever He wills. The Holy Spirit knows well what is needed in every time and place."(EG,280) Are we ready to listen and to do what the Spirit invites?

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You will renew the face of the earth.

The Acts of the Apostles: A Book for Disciples **Chapter 8: A Deacon and A Finance Minister**

Philip, one of the seven deacons appointed in Acts chapter 6, seems to have moved beyond his purely administrative role by chapter 8. He left Jerusalem following the death of Stephen but not to hide. Chapter 8 of Acts concerns the notable doings of Philip, the deacon-turned-evangelist. And the chapter continues the theme of opening up the Gospel to the non-Jewish world. Philip now announces that Jesus is the one through whom the slow unwinding story of God's transforming power is reaching into the whole world. With Philip's aid, the first non-Jew now comes to faith in baptism and it is a black man from Africa. The Ethiopian eunuch was the chief finance minister to its Queen, named Candace. It is virtually impossible to think he was Jewish or a proselyte to Judaism. Although clearly an outsider to the Jewish system, there was something about the Jewish God and the Jewish way of life that attracted him. And he becomes the point where the Gospel enters an ever widening circle now to include the non-Jewish world

Isaiah had meditated deeply on the fate of Israel as the faithful steward of God's clear promises and purposes, which now continue despite Israel's failure to be the light to the nations or even to walk in the light itself. Now, a new picture emerges, Jesus, the servant who completes Israel's mission, reaches into the world as God's servant and welcomes all nations into God's favor.