**Scripture and Feast Day Notes**

**Sunday,May 3, 2020**

**From Today’s Readings**

**John 5:19-30** Jewish leaders had begun persecuting Jesus for healing on the Sabbath and calling God His Father. In His defense,Jesus declares here that 1) the Father has granted Him life-giving power and entrusts Him alone to judge the world (v. 22) and 2) those who hear His words and believe will have eternal life (vv 24-25, 28-29). *Discuss/reflect: “Whoever hears my word and believes…” says the Lord….” In Robert Coles inspiring collection of stories,* The Spiritual Life of Children, *he recalls the story of a Jewish boy who asks his rabbi what the sound of God’s voice was like (having heard so many biblical stories of God talking to people). The rabbi wisely answers: “God’s voice is heard by those who are listening”. In what specific ways are your ears open to God’s voice in your life?*

**Acts 13:16-43** Sts. Paul and Barnabus have come to the synagogue in Antioch where Paul reviews the history of God’s intervention in the life of His people right up to Jesus’ resurrection. What God promised has been fulfilled, Paul exclaims, and through Jesus’ Resurrection, our sins are forgiven in a way that would be impossible under the old Law. Many eagerly follow them, begging the two to teach them more. *Discuss/reflect: Paul and Barnabus travel their known world by boat, by foot and by who knows what other arduous mode of transportation to share the good news of Jesus Christ. People listen and beg (v 42) to know more. Are you a good messenger for God, witnessing to His grace and power with words and your own example? What small steps can you take to become one?*

**1 Peter 5:1-14** Peter exhorts church leaders to serve eagerly, humbly, and selflessly, and to be alert always to the evil around them. The sufferings which they share with those witnessing to their faith will be lifted up and honored by the Lord. *Discuss/reflect: In asking church leaders to “shepherd their flock,” he alludes to the Chief Shepherd (vv 2, 4) Himself. Google “Jesus as shepherd” to learn more. If you oversee or shepherd others – whether your own little family or a church group -- how do you* *follow Jesus’ example?*

**Today is Red Sunday**



The third Sunday after Easter (or the 4th of Eastertide, which includes Easter itself), Red Sunday has no ecclesiastical origin. It is not listed as such in the *Donatzouytz,* the Calendar of Feasts. Like last week’s Green Sunday (Sunday of the World Church), the day has been so named because of the colors of nature at this time of year: green for the new growth of spring, and red for the red flowers that were said to be in bloom.

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