

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 2:4-9

John 14:1-12

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

Who are we before God or in the eyes of God? We know that we have been created in the image and likeness of God and we also know that we have lost the original grace because of the sins of our first parents. We also know and believe that Jesus, through his passion, death and resurrection has restored us once again the grace that we lost because of sins.

Let us ask ourselves now once again; who are we now? St. Peter gives us the answer in our second reading today: ***But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, so that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.*** This is who we are my dear sister and brothers.

We no longer belong to darkness or to sin but to light and grace. We have died to our sins and have risen now with Christ to new life. It is now our duty and responsibility to keep up and preserve the grace and life that we have received from Jesus Christ as the fruits of his resurrection. St. Peter calls us today in the second reading: ***let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

Dear friends!

We are God's chosen one, belong to his royal priesthood and we are called to be the temple of God. As the temple of the Holy Spirit and the dwelling place of God, we must keep ourselves holy and blameless as our Lord and Saviour is holy. We all have been called to be imitators of Christ, which means we have to be holy and blameless not only in words, but in words and deeds and we have to lead a life of holiness before God and before one another. The disciples or the early Christians or the saints preached about Jesus and brought thousands of God's people back to him not only through their words but also through their very life, a life of holiness.

That's is what we all are called to do and that's what St. Peter is reminding us in the second reading today. Unless we keep

ourselves as the temple of God, we cannot enter into the rooms in the Father's house of which Jesus is speaking in the gospel today. How to keep ourselves as the temple of God and how to remain as God's holy people and royal priesthood? Jesus has already shown us, he has already given us the example. That's why Jesus says in the gospel again, **you know the way**. But many a times, like the apostle Thomas, we do not see, we do not understand, and we do not realise that. And like the apostles Thomas and Philip, we also again and again tend to ask Jesus; show us the way, show us the Father.

As He said to Philip, Jesus would say to us; ***“Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.***

Dear Friends!

Jesus has been with us always. He has done numerous miracles in our lives. He has spoken to us millions of times through his word.

Let us ask ourselves; have we ever realised that we are the temple of God? Do we realise that Jesus is always with us as he promised? Do we take efforts to walk always in the way or path that Jesus has shown us? Have we ever realised our responsibility of taking others to Jesus, as the disciples did? Have we ever realised that like us everyone is precious in the eyes of God? Have we ever realised that we are no longer just simple people, rather we are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people? have we ever realise that we need to live always like Jesus, a life of holiness?

Dear Friends,

Let us continue to ask our risen Lord to make us realise our own worth, our own value as well as the worth and value of others in the eyes of God and let us ask him to give us the grace to live and walk in the path that he has shown us and, one day to inherit the reward and the room that he has prepared for us in his Father's house.