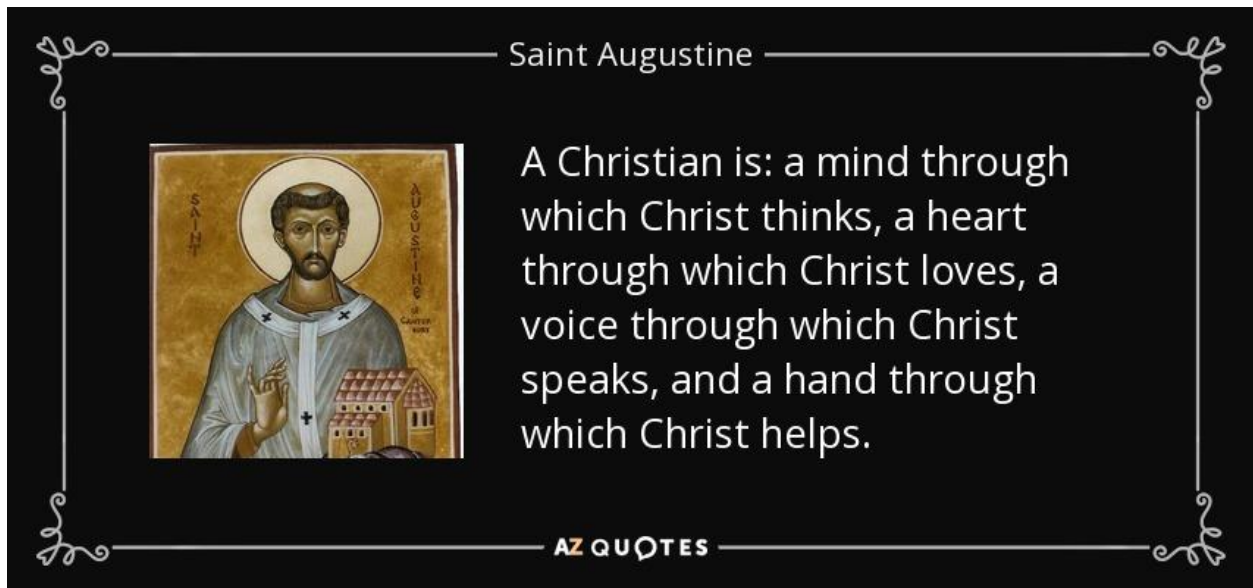


FROM FATHER JOHN – *“I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad. Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Taste and see how good the LORD is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.”* ~ Psalm 34

The Lord hears the cry of the poor, Blessed be the Lord!!!



Here is the direct link to the readings for mass on Wednesday of the Second Week of Easter.

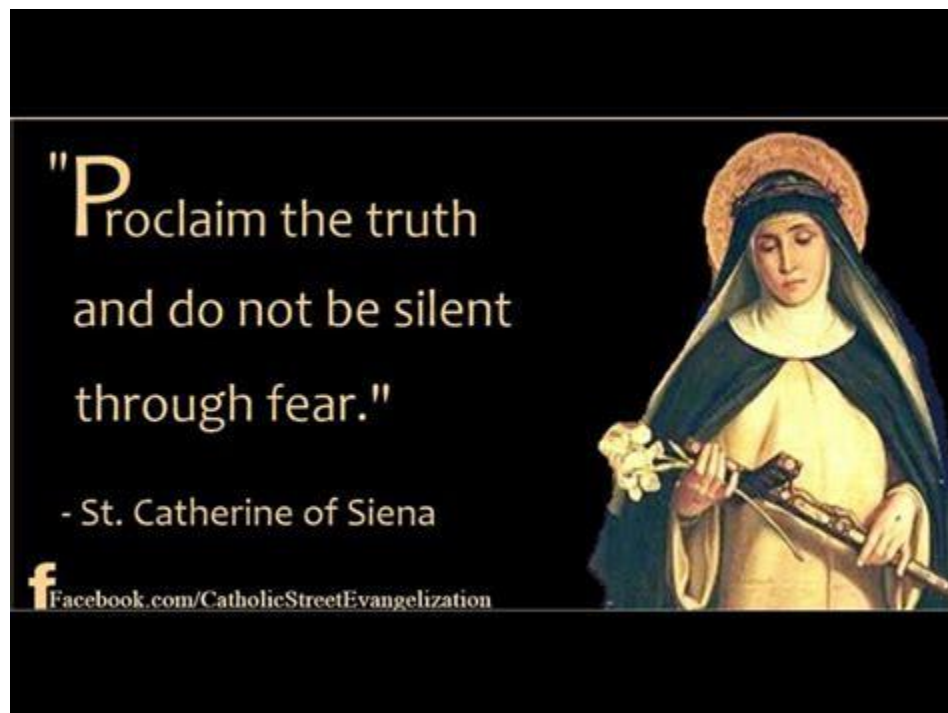
<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/041421.cfm>

St. Ephraem of Syria wrote that *“Virtues are formed by prayer. Prayer preserves temperance. Prayer suppresses anger. Prayer prevents emotions of pride and envy. Prayer draws into the soul the Holy Spirit, and raises man to heaven.”*

In our gospel reading today, the Lord God sent His angel to the Apostles to free them from their imprisonment. *“The high priest rose up and all his companions, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and, filled with jealousy, laid hands upon the Apostles and put them in the public jail. But during the night, **the angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison, led them out, and said, ‘Go and take your place in the temple area, and tell the people everything about this life.’”*** ~ Acts 5:17 – 20

This is exactly what the apostles did; they went to the temple area and continued to proclaim the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They followed the call that the Lord gave them through the angel. But, they did not stop at the temple area. They went to the four corners of the known world proclaiming the Good News through words and actions.

Jesus gives us the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel, *"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."*



The apostles and disciples went out into the world and did Good. They did Good both by the preaching and by the actions that they took to build up the community of believers. Our God says to us in our gospel reading that He *"did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God."*

It is always easier to condemn others than to take on the responsibility to do Good. St. John uses the word belief in this gospel saying that whoever believes

will not be condemned. We tend to look at the word belief as something of the mind; thinking that something is true and therefore I believe it.

But, the English word 'belief' actually comes from the old English word 'lief' which means to love. Believing is not just the acquiescence of our mind to something we recognize as true. It is more expansive than that. It also means that we enter into acts of love which do Good in the world if we truly believe in the Lord.

In God's great Mercy, He sends His only begotten Son into the world to save us. Our Lord Jesus is the light of the world and He shows us on the cross the way to eternal life; namely, that we must die to our old selves and live for God and the people God puts into our lives. We are called to choose between light and darkness. This means we can choose to live a life doing Good out of love for God and one another or we can choose to live selfishly for ourselves pursuing our own wants and desires.

We no longer live in darkness or in secret. We live in the light of Christ and He calls us to *"tell the people everything about this life."* Always remember that telling people everything is only half the battle. We also have to practice what we preach.

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

