

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 21, 2017

Have you ever walked by someone or even seen someone from the distance and you knew that something was different about them? You knew that if you were experiencing the same circumstances that you would not be able to have the grace and gratitude that person was displaying. They were exuding hope and peace. How was that person able to be at peace and even have a modicum of hope? What did they know that you may not have known?

I think that is exactly what the people were thinking when they saw the Samaritans as they progressed from unbelievers to believers, being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit. The Samaritans had sanctified Christ as the Lord in their hearts. By doing so, they now had a hope that before had not been known to them. This new hope could not be hidden. When one has this type of hope, it is seen by all those around them. It was a light that shines from within.

We Catholics carry this light within us as well. It is up to us to have this light shine so brightly that others will walk up to us and ask, "What is causing so much hope, so much peace?" Hope is not just for dire circumstances. It is for all times because our hope is in the Lord. He is with us daily in all things that we do. Let us be a beacon for others to see. When others see our beacons and ask us why we have such hope, let our answers be ready. Let us answer with gentleness and reverence that the Lord within us is the reason that we have hope.

Our hope is strengthened by the Spirit of truth that has been sent to us by God. This Spirit of truth has been given to us as we keep the Lord's commandments. Hope coupled with the Spirit of truth will make the light within us shine so brightly that people will definitely want to know what is the reason for our hope.

What is your hope level? Is it bright enough for others to see?

Janice-Kay Logan