

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we continue our journey through this Easter season, our readings today offer profound comfort and a clear roadmap for our lives as disciples. In the Gospel of John (14:1-12), we hear Jesus' tender words to his disciples: "*Do not let your hearts be troubled*". He reassures us that he is going to prepare a place for us and that He himself is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. In a world often filled with confusion and shifting values, these words are our anchor. To follow the "Way" is not merely to follow a set of rules, but to enter into a relationship with a person. When we look at Jesus, we see the Father; when we follow his example of selfless love, we find our path to eternal life.

Our first reading (Acts 6:1-7) shows us this path of life as faith in action. As the early Church grew, the Apostles recognized the need for diverse ministries to ensure no one—especially the vulnerable widows—was overlooked. This led to the appointment of the first deacons, reminding us that every member of our parish has a unique vocation and a role to play in serving the Body of Christ.

St. Peter further illuminates this in our second reading, calling us "living stones". We are not just passive observers in a building; we are the spiritual house, built upon Christ the cornerstone. By virtue of our baptism, we share in a "royal priesthood," called to offer spiritual sacrifices through our daily work, our family life, and our service to one another.

For Francis of Assisi, he first chose the "Way" of radical poverty and humility, reminding us that to follow Christ, we must often travel light. He taught us that the way to the Father is not through power or prestige, but through the simple, narrow path of service to the "least of these." Francis then famously lived the Gospel sine glossa—without gloss. He saw the "Truth" of Christ in the eyes of the leper and the beauty of creation. In a world of complex arguments, Francis's truth was simple: God is Love, and we are all brothers and sisters. He reminds us that the Truth isn't just something we believe; it is someone we encounter. Finally, Francis found "Life" by dying to himself. By embracing the cross, he discovered a joy that the world couldn't understand. His life was so aligned with Jesus that he even bore the marks of the Stigmata, proving that when we lose our life for Christ's sake, we truly find it.

This week, I invite you to reflect on your own place in this "spiritual house": How can you better trust in Jesus as the "Way" when your heart is troubled? Where is God calling you to serve as a "living stone" in our community? I pray that we, like Francis, may have the courage to trust in God, even when the future is uncertain and a "perfect" path is not visible. Let us simply look to Jesus. Let us walk his Way, speak his Truth, and breathe his Life.

Peace in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Luke