



5th Sunday of Easter

Today's readings reflect on the obligations in the reception of baptism. They call us to action. The genuine Christian is the active Christian.

The first reading tells of the time after Saul's acceptance of Christianity. "He spoke and argued with the Hellenists." These were the Greek Jews that had not accepted Christianity. Their response was to try to kill him. In this scene, Saul models the fact that genuine Christian conversion leads to action.

In the second reading, the author says that Christians must be motivated by two realities: Jesus' divine Sonship and active, caring love for one another. Belief in Jesus and mutual love go hand in hand.

The Gospel teaches via a parable that uses the Hebrew image of God's people as a vine. Jesus brings life from the Father. Failure to bear fruit means our failure to share in that divine life. Sharing in that vine-life means sharing it with others. In the disciples' fruitfulness, they glorify God.