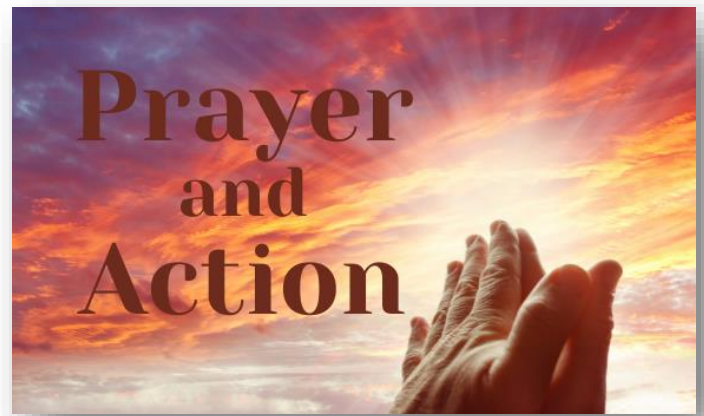


Reflection for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

Submitted by Sr. Dolores O'Dowd, GNSH



Just days ago, at the Ascension, we heard the messengers chide the apostles for standing and looking up as Jesus ascended into the heavens. They seemed to be implying -

there is still work to be done - look around you.

The first reading indicates they did just that. They refilled their ranks and got on with the mission Jesus began. Through our baptism, we are called to be that replenishment in our time, to look around our world and to act.

The psalm reminds us to appreciate the blessings of each day so that prayer becomes the bedrock of a solid commitment to act.

The second reading reminds us why we act- *out of love*- and how to act- *lovingly*. The Gospel missions us to continue the great love story, to embrace the cosmic dimension of God's love for all.

So, what do we see as we look around?

Do we see what Jesus and the apostles saw in their time?

Do we see those in pain, grieving?

Do we see what is in danger of being destroyed - Earth, the dignity of its inhabitants?

Do we see those who have been left out, ignored, forgotten?

Do we see those imprisoned in mind and body, those different from us?

Are we ready to embrace the marginalized, include the forgotten and disenfranchised?

Are we willing to speak the truth, as Jesus did, that God's love is all encompassing?

Will we take action?

As we live out our baptism, the continuation of Jesus' mission, may we live in ways that God's love is truly manifest in us and through us. May God's love ease the discomfort we may feel of stepping into those different spaces so that we can joyfully share God's loving presence.

[Readings for the 7th Sunday of Easter](#)