

Acts 9: 31-42, John 6: 60-69

FOCUS: The Spirit helps us believe the teachings which are difficult to accept!

In Today's reading from Acts, we hear how the Church grew throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. As Peter passed through a town named Lydda, he called upon the name of Jesus and a man who had been paralyzed for years was cured. When Peter reached Joppa, again he prayed and Jesus raised his faithful disciple Tabitha from the dead. Indeed, these miracles helped convince people that Jesus was truly the Messiah.

In today's Gospel we hear about some disciples who had a hard time accepting the teaching of Jesus on the Holy Eucharist. Although the words concerning the eating of the Lord's Flesh came from the Lord, many could not understand this teaching or accept it for themselves. Even Jesus could not hang on to all who originally followed him, but he did not compromise. To be His follower one had to be willing to accept the whole message, or the miracles and healings were all in vain.

Jesus taught about the Spirit and life; it is the Spirit that gives life, the flesh will ultimately become useless. Jesus challenged his disciples as to whether they would continue to follow him or not because his teaching was difficult for some to accept. Peter also presented a message that was difficult for the people of Lydda and Joppa to accept. They had witnessed the miracles, but these were only signs of the truth of the teachings of Jesus.

Today, our Church presents the teachings of Jesus through our pope and bishops. Like the people in biblical times, we are very human and want proof, but accept on faith that Jesus is indeed risen from the dead and is the Messiah. The people of the early Church took the word of Peter and the Apostles that Jesus was truly the Son of God and the One they were looking for. As for us, we have records of what they did and said. Still, there are many who doubt that Jesus is truly the Son of God. May we be willing to accept what Jesus taught then and today as well. If the Spirit is truly at work in our Church, that same Spirit will not let us down when it comes to our faith. As Peter told Jesus, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

*Novena Prayer: O Immaculate Virgin Mary / Mother of Our Lord Jesus and our Mother,
/Penetrated with the most lively confidence in your all-powerful and never-failing intercession,
/manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal,/We your loving and trustful children implore
you to obtain for us the graces and favors we ask during this novena, / if they be beneficial to our
immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray./*

(Healing of Michael Kwinn III)

*You know, O Mary, how often our souls have
been the sanctuaries of your Son who hates iniquity. / Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and
that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed
may tend to His greater glory. / Obtain for us also a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may
recover by penance what we have lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where you
are the Queen of angels and of men. Amen*

*Jesus, we humbly ask you to glorify in heaven and on earth, the servant of God, Mother Teresa of
Calcutta, who generously participated in Your sufferings, who loved Thee so much and labored
for the glory of your heavenly Father and for the good of souls. With confidence, we beseech thee
to grant us, through her intercession the grace of ... (Healing of Michael Kwinn III) which we
ardently desire.*

Pray: *Glory to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen (3 times)*

Format borrowed from Prayer for Intercession of Padre Pio