

# Pray, act, trust — in God

7th Sunday of Easter (June 1): (R3) John 17:11-19; (R1) Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; (R2) 1 John 4:11-16.

The first reading next Sunday is about making a decision — choosing a successor to Judas. Perhaps one of the most difficult tasks that many of us have to perform is that of making decisions.

Some people don't want to make decisions. They procrastinate or they just let life take its course. They are like the proverbial donkey who, when placed midway between two equally attractive bundles of hay, died of starvation because it could not choose one or the other.

The disciples had a decision to make — to replace Judas. Twelve was a sacred number. Ancient Israel was made up of 12 tribes. Jesus chose 12 Apostles. But Judas betrayed Christ and killed himself so that now there were only 11.

Two men qualified to succeed Judas — Joseph, called Barsabbas, and Matthias. Both men had been with Christ from the earliest days of his ministry. Both were worthy to witness to Christ's Resurrection. How could the Apostles choose between them?

First of all, they prayed. "O Lord, you read the hearts of men. Make known to us which of these two you choose for this apostolic ministry replacing Judas."

That was a good way to begin to solve a problem — to pray. When we, too, have to make decisions, the best way to start is to turn to God.

Terry Sieck was in the habit of praying very specifically for what she wanted. She told God in great detail about what she wanted — the kind of job, the kind of husband, the kind of life. Often she was frustrat-



Father Albert Shamon

## A word for Sunday

ed. One day Terry's friend suggested she try a different tack. Give God a blank sheet of paper, her friend suggested, and let him make up a list for your life.

Terry did that. Soon she went back to school. She met a wonderful man there whom she married. He was all she could desire. When she turned her life over to God, he provided for her needs in ways she could never have imagined. She prayed, then acted.

The Apostles prayed, and they also acted. They made a decision by drawing lots. That wasn't as bad as it sounds. Both candidates were qualified. Neither choice was a bad one. The important thing is that they acted, as well as prayed.

Theodore Roosevelt put it this way: In any moment of decision the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.

A method for making decisions is the PAT method. PAT is an acronym for PRAY, ACT, TRUST. Pray intensely, act courageously and then trust that because you have sought God's counsel, and because you believe you have made the best deci-

sion of which you are capable, that things will work out for the best.

That doesn't mean you will always make the right decision. Knowing the mind of God is a difficult process. Still, because you sincerely asked God's help in the decision-making process, and because you acted courageously, God will help you make your decision a right decision. This is the meaning of faith. You venture out as Abraham ventured out, as Joshua ventured out, as David ventured out, as Ruth ventured out, as Elijah ventured out, as Mary and Joseph ventured out. They had only a faint glimmer about their decisions, but they prayed, acted and trusted God, and all came out right. Scripture promises us, and life experience confirms it, he or she who trusts his or her life to God will ultimately prevail.

Billy Graham called his broadcasts, first on radio and later on television, The Hour of Decision. There comes those times when not to act is the worst decision possible. If we use the PAT method — Pray, Act, Trust — we cannot go wrong.

Father Shamon is administrator of St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

## Daily Readings

Monday, June 2

Acts 19:1-8;  
Psalms 68:2-5AC, 6-7AB;  
John 16:29-33

Tuesday, June 3

Acts 20:17-27;  
Psalms 68:10-11, 20-21;  
John 17:1-11A

Wednesday, June 4

Acts 20:28-38;  
Psalms 68:29-30, 33-36C;  
John 17:11B-19

Thursday, June 5

Acts 22:30, 23:6-11;  
Psalms 16:1-2A, 5, 7-11;  
John 17:20-26

Friday, June 6

Acts 25:13B-21;  
Psalms 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20AB; John 21:15-19

Saturday, June 7

Acts 28:16-20, 30-31;  
Psalms 114:5, 7;  
John 21:20-25

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# "Say Rosary for Peace"



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For the past 85 years the message of Our Lady of the Rosary, expressed at Fatima, has essentially been ignored. The continuing disharmony of nations demonstrates that the sincerest efforts of governments to effect a lasting peace have been failures.

It is only by fulfilling the request of the Immaculate Heart of God's Most Holy Mother, as explained in the apparition of Fatima - Pray The Rosary - that a catastrophe can be avoided. The achievement of a true and lasting peace can only be accomplished through devotion to Mary's sinless heart and through daily prayer.

Recognizing the responsibility of the laity to meet this challenge, Rochester Council #178 of the Knights of Columbus is promoting and distributing rosaries to all of its affiliated churches so that parishioners may join in the campaign to pray for world peace.

This initiative is intended to call to action every Knights of Columbus Council in New York State and across the country to promote prayer and to distribute rosaries to their area churches. This would mean that thousands of prayers would storm heaven daily. Perhaps then the spirit of peace can spread worldwide. We implore God to again forgive humanity for its sinfulness and prepare this world for peace and for Christ's coming.

Please join us in this goal. Begin today by demonstrating devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by praying the Rosary daily for peace.



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