

April 20, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

RISE UP!

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

Today's First Reading

Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs where all the widows came to him weeping and showing him the tunics and cloaks that Dorcas [Tabitha] had made while she was with them. Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed. Then he turned to her body and said, "Tabitha, rise up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up, and when he had called the holy ones and the widows, he presented her alive. This became known all over Joppa, and many came to believe in the Lord.

ACTS 9:31-42

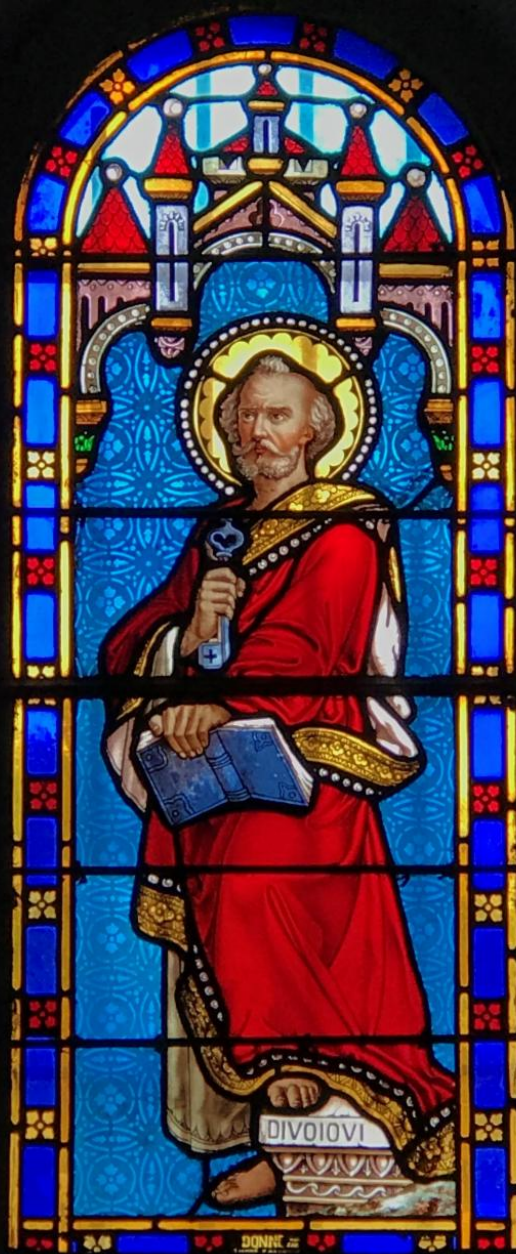
Reflection

In the first reading from Acts, we read about how St. Peter, through the Holy Spirit, healed a man named Aeneas, who had been confined to bed for eight years. He then is summoned to Joppa where a disciple named Tabitha had passed away. Peter knelt down beside her bed and prayed. He then said, “Tabitha, rise up.” After she arose, he took her hand and brought her back to those who had been weeping for her.

What this says to me is not to put the Holy Spirit in a box of what the Spirit can and cannot do. How deep is our faith in what God can do if God so wishes? Who are we to cast doubt on the power of the Holy Spirit to impact our lives and the lives of others?

I also find this passage inspiring as it is Peter who is responding to his call as the disciple of whom Jesus said, “upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). Peter, the one who seemed to perpetually get it wrong when Jesus was teaching the disciples. And yet, it is Peter whom Jesus chose to build his church. Peter found the fortitude and courage to embark on the mission given to him by Jesus. He responded to the call to preach, teach, heal, and be present among the people of God. Peter, with all his limitations, did great things through the power of God. Are we not called to do the same?

I find St. Peter inspiring because he and the other disciples and followers continued to build the church in their space and time. We, too, are called to continually build the church in our space and time. It is an awesome responsibility, though “doable” when we rely on the Holy Spirit and our fellow companions on the journey.



Bartrès, France
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- How does St. Peter inspire you to fulfill the mission to which God calls you? How might you find strength and courage by reflecting on St. Peter?
- How readily do you respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings in your

life? St. Peter immediately responded to the plea for him to come to Joppa to pray for Tabitha. How open are you and I first to hear, and then to respond to, God's call in our lives -- even if it seems impossible?

For Prayer

*God,
we pray for the grace to generously respond
to anything you ask of us this day.
May we be instruments of healing and presence, joy and love,
to all with whom we engage with today.
Amen.*

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