

April 7, 2024

Daily Reflections

Journeying through Easter



Center for Spiritual Development

ONE HEART AND ONE MIND

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

ACTS 4:32-35

Reflection

This reading from the Acts of the Apostles offers a vivid picture of the Jerusalem Christian community after the Resurrection. The description of this community as being of one mind and heart and holding all things in common expresses the Greek understanding of friendship. The Hebrew ideal of

covenant justice (see Deuteronomy 15:4) is expressed in the statement that “there was no needy person among them.” The spontaneous sharing of material goods to meet everyone’s needs is facilitated through the community leadership, signified by laying the proceeds of their property sales “at the feet of the apostles.”

Community as described here is not simply a “byproduct,” but rather it is the essence of how relationship with Jesus Christ is lived out. Everyone had what she or he needed, no more, no less.



People Doing Group Hand Cheer
Photo by Dio Hasbi Saniskoro

For Pondering

- Do you recognize your faith community in this description in Acts of the Apostles? If "yes," which part stands out clearly to you? If "no," what is needed to complete the description?
 - What is your contribution to your faith community?
 - How do you experience God's support?
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For Prayer

*Gracious God,
be with me,
and help me
to be fully committed to you
and my faith community
which is your gift.
Amen.*

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