

5th Sunday of Easter

(Acts 14:21-27, Revelations 21:1-5, John 13:1,31-33,34-35)

Theme: There is light at the end of the "TUNNEL"

The readings of today invite us to always strengthen one another with words of encouragement and commendation. This is a call for each and every one of us to be more optimistic and not to be pessimistic always in the way we see things in our various areas of our life; in matters of our faith in God, our families, our places of work, school and in our relationships

Paul and Barnabas in our first reading today, strengthened the faith of the new converts in Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, who were losing their faith in God because of the persecutions going on at their church at that time. They encouraged them with these words, "It is through many persecutions that we must enter the kingdom of God." (Act 14: 21-27)

In our gospel narrative today from the gospel of John, our Lord Jesus did not allow his betrayal by Judas to weigh down the faith and hope of the rest of the apostles. Rather, He encouraged them with the good effect of his death, which is redemption and salvation of their lives and that of the world.

In the early life of the church, God permitted the death of Stephen and some of His apostles so that the gospel may spread to the whole world. (Acts 11:19-26) There is a saying that God some times may permit a lesser evil in our lives for a greater good in the future.

Do not feel or think that our present suffering means that God has turned his eyes away from us. The hardship in your life now, sickness, death of a close relative, problem in your marriage, lack of peace and understanding in your family does not mean that God has deserted you or your family. God's light will shine again. Try to see the good effects of these things in the future. In moments like these, let us encourage each other that it is going to be well again. ***For Our Redeemer Liveth!***