

MAY 22, 2011
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

JOHN 14: 1-12

"How can we know the way?"

-John 14:5

Jesus speaks to the disciples and says: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.... I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus informs the disciples of his departure, his "return to the Father." He reassures the disciples that his departure is only so that they may be together forever. "I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. And *you know the way* to the place where I am going." Doubting Thomas speaks: "Lord, we do not know where you are going. *How can we know the way?*"

This is an ancient question that remains ever new in every generation of humankind. Myths and sagas are built on it. Homer's *Odyssey* revealed an individual's quest for "the way home." Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* want a "way" to bring together two feuding families. The lives of saints are plagued by the question. The Desert Fathers and Mothers looked for a "way" to live the gospel radically. Francis of Assisi searched for a "way" to live poorly. John Martin Moye looked for a "way" to serve the underserved. Therese of Lisieux looked for a "simple way" to become holy. Maximilian Kolbe wanted to find a "way" to be freed by the gospel even though his life was one of total captivity. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote about a "way" to avoid "cheap grace." Dorothy Day believed there was a "way" to bring hope to the poor. The martyrs of El Salvador believed there was a "way" to stand against oppression. Martin Luther King sought a "way" to end racism in our time.

No matter what the "destination"—an end to poverty; radical gospel hospitality; an end to racism, oppression, and "cheap grace;" a simple life; serving the underserved—there is truly only one true WAY: JESUS, THE RISEN LORD.

We continue to search for the way as we live our lives day by day during this lovely Easter Season. We ask you, Provident God, to increase our faith, to renew our hope, and to let our love abound to praise your glory, so that we, as "sacraments of [your] providence" (CONSTITUTION, # 11), MAY BRING HEALING AND NEW LIFE TO THE WORLD THROUGH YOUR RISEN SON.

--Sr. Jane Coles, CDP

For reflection or sharing:

- Δ As a "saint of our day", identify your "destination" ... personal holiness, solutions to administrative concerns, renewed hopefulness, opportunities to serve others?
- Δ How is the Risen Jesus YOUR WAY?