

MAY 14, 2017



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS 6:1-7

PSALM 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

1 PETER 2:4-9

JOHN 14:1-12

REFLECTION

Transitions are hard. It was late November in my senior year of college. All my friends seemed to have plans lined up for after graduation but mine were still up in the air. A booklet of postcollege volunteer opportunities sat on my desk, highlighted and earmarked with dozens of potential options. It was exhilarating to consider all the possibilities: to use my Spanish in Central America? Adventurous! To teach at a school in Perth Amboy, New Jersey? Challenging! To work in a food bank in Denver, Colorado? For some reason, that one really tugged at my heart. In hindsight, there was no way I could have known the magnitude of the decision I was about to make, and how it would affect almost every detail of my life to this very day. (And that's probably a good thing!) At the time, I could only go with the information I had on hand and to trust in God. It was one of the first times I leaned on Jesus himself as "the way" to an unknown future. In today's Gospel, Jesus prepares his disciples for a time of transition. Soon he will no longer accompany them in person. He is also paving the way for them to get to future places that they cannot yet foresee. Thomas asks him directly, "Master, how can we know the way?" That is, if we don't know where we are headed, how do we get there? By responding that he IS the way, Jesus assures the disciples (and us) that if we remain close to him, he will lead us to the Father. No one has a crystal ball. But we don't need a crystal ball to see the future; staying close to Jesus in this very moment is how we remain on a life-giving and rewarding path.



Catholic Network of Volunteer Service publishes a directory each year with hundreds of short term and long term volunteer opportunities: <https://catholicvolunteernetwork.org/response-order>

ACTION

Many resources exist to aid in discerning your future. Your school's guidance counselor or your parish youth minister can get you started in the right direction. So whether you are trying to decide which high school to go to next or which career path to take, keep these tools on hand and put them to good use!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Have you ever had to choose between two or more good options? How did you go about making your decision?