

MAY 21, 2017

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 8:5-8, 14-17

PSALM 66:1-3, 4-5,
6-7, 16, 20

1 PETER 3:15-18

JOHN 14:15-21

REFLECTION

To have hope means that there is something more, something better, than the difficulties that we may face in life. There are times in all of our lives in which we face challenges. When my wife was thirteen weeks pregnant with our oldest daughter, we found out that something was wrong with the pregnancy. We did not know what exactly was going on, or what the causes were, but we did soon learn that our baby was not growing properly in the womb. We were devastated to think that she might not make it, or if she did survive the pregnancy, that something might be seriously wrong developmentally. For months we experienced a rollercoaster of emotions. There were times in which our faith was seriously tested; it was in these bleakest moments that we felt almost abandoned by God. Through it all, my wife and I were able to hold onto even the tiniest bit of hope; this hope was what ultimately helped us to make it through the very difficult pregnancy, the seven-week early birth of a two-and-a-half-pound baby girl, and a month in the hospital with her. Through the Paschal Mystery, death is overcome and new life ushers forth. Hope that is rooted in the Paschal Mystery says that there is indeed something "more" than the struggle. Today, we are blessed with our oldest daughter, Abigail Hope. She is a healthy, amazing little girl who brings us much joy and is a real-life embodiment of what it means to hope.



ACTION

Spend some time visiting a friend. Share with her or him about a time that was difficult for you in your life. What happened? To what or to whom did you turn to get you through the experience? Can you identify the Christian virtue of hope as being present throughout your difficult experience? Entering into some good conversation with a friend can be helpful in reflecting upon our difficult and triumphant experiences.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

● Reflect back upon your life up until this point. Can you identify times in which hope helped to pull you through a difficult point? Journal a bit about how you felt during those times that were tough, as well as how you felt when you were able to pull through the situation.