

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 6, 2018

✦ ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 ✦ 1 John 4:7-10 ✦ Gospel John 15:9-17 ✦

Reflection by: Sister Donna L. Ciangio, OP

*"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."*

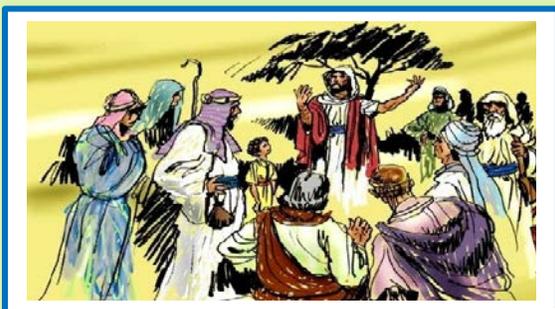
Dr. Marie Mullaney from Caldwell University recently gave a two-part series at St. Rose of Lima Parish on *Catholics in America: Trials and Contributions*. We have all heard of the prejudice against Catholics since the 1600s in England that spread to America. But, listening to the extent of that prejudice and seeing graphic illustrations through photos, newspaper ads, illustrations, and political cartoons was astounding. The Catholic immigrants of those early days, Irish, Germans, Italians, Polish, Hungarian, Slovak and more, came because they had to. They were starving, forced out of homelands, and had to provide for their families. Ultimately, they were able to make their way in this new land.

Peter, in this chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, has a conversion and proclaims acceptance for those Gentiles on whom the Holy Spirit fell. He and the disciples recognize that God calls all people and that we cannot withhold the saving power of God from those we don't know or trust. Each of these readings speaks of love; showing no partiality, reaching out to neighbor, keeping commandments, being friends of Jesus rather than slaves, laying down one's life, and being chosen by God to accomplish all of these things.

Today, more than ever, we need to reflect on what each of these readings say to us as individuals, as a community of sisters, associates, and all with whom we minister. People across the world are starving, being forced out of homelands, desperate to provide for their families. We need to be the voice, as Peter was, to acknowledge the gifts of God showered on all people and do what we need to do to change hearts. We are chosen to make the difference.

Reflection questions:

- ✦ What are the good works that you are involved in that change situations for those in need?
- ✦ What organizations do you support in their efforts in social action and advocacy?



*"Can anyone withhold the water for
baptizing these people,
who have received the Holy Spirit even as we
have?"
He ordered them to be baptized
in the name of Jesus Christ.*