

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

May 16, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15–17, 20a, 20c–26 † 1 John 4: 11–16 † John 17, 11b–19



Reflection by Mary E. Lanni, OPA

In the Gospel today, Jesus prays to his Father to keep his followers from the evil one and consecrate them in the truth. “They do not belong to this world,” Jesus says, “any more than I belong to this world.” How should we feel about this prayer of Jesus? What is he talking about?

As human beings we live in a physical world of magnificent features like mountains and gorges, oceans and valleys cut by flowing rivers, sunrises and sunsets. All awesome in their beauty, we were meant to live in it, enjoy it, appreciate it, and care for it—and we do. Many times, however, we contaminate it by our greed, injustice, prejudice, oppression and violence against other human beings. This is the world that Jesus does not belong to and we, his followers, shouldn’t occupy it either.

In the second reading, John tells us that God remains in us if we love one another and “his love is brought to perfection in us.” It seems simple enough to say that we love our neighbor as ourselves, but it is often a very hard choice for us to put another’s interest ahead of our own. It is our response to Jesus’ prayer to his Father that he remain with us forever. We need to really believe that God does dwell within us, and it is through God’s boundless love for us that we are able to share his love with others.