

APRIL 21, 2021
Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Easter
John 6: 35-40

“BREAD THAT GIVES LIFE FOREVER!”

One of the first recorded martyrdom in the Sacred Scripture is the death of St. Stephen, a deacon who boldly proclaimed and preached Jesus Christ as the Messiah. After his death, severe persecution began to the first Christian communities. According to Tertullian, “a lawyer by profession, he converted to Christianity in 193 A.D. and became a Catholic apologist until 212 A.D., the blood of martyrs is the seed of the Church!”¹ Even if they were persecuted, they don’t stop proclaiming the word as mentioned in our first reading today. Philip, one of the Seven deacons chosen to serve the people, went to Samaria preaching, healing, and driving out evil spirits. The people were joyful of what he did, “there was great joy in that city.”² Persecution did not prevent them to live their faith and give up their lives for Christ.

My brothers and sisters, our reading is telling us that the Church and those who are faithful to Jesus will continue to stand and find strength and courage for what it believes. Even in today’s modern world, we are challenge to profess our faith amidst difficulties and trials. We are encouraged to remain the salt and light of the world.

Jesus Christ is offering Himself as the food to strengthen us by declaring Him as the bread of life. Those who gave up their lives for Christ knew that only in Him that they will be satisfied. Martyrs believed that their lives will be nothing if it is not for the service of Christ and the Church. Only in Christ that we can be complete, and death is nothing if it is the way we can be with Him. So, let us ask the Lord in this Eucharist that we may always partake Him as our Bread of life and remain with Him for ever, here and the next life.

¹ www.catholicfaithandreason.org

² Acts 8: 8 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society