

Second Hand Preacher

5th Sunday of Easter

May 14, 2017

1 Peter 2:4-9

Growing up I belonged to a youth organization called 4H. It gave me many learning opportunities that helped to broaden my base of knowledge and have a great deal of fun. One project I tried was geology. We had an older couple who lived near my childhood home that was into rock collecting. I remember spending time at their house ogling over their agates and minerals they collected. They had a rock tumbler that made the rocks smooth and helped to show off their natural beauty. As breathtaking as the stones were, they were nothing compared to the living stones found in our community.

St. Peter was a fisherman. He was a common folk who knew the meaning of hard work. I'm certain, among the people he spoke with, there were a number of stone masons. Even if someone wasn't an actual mason, they may be familiar with this sort of work. So the analogy of stones would have been quite effective. Peter quoted scripture that would have encouraged these images. His message was Jesus. The Jews had rejected Jesus and now he was the cornerstone of their faith. Peter invited these Jews to become disciples. This first letter of Peter is rich in words that bring about evangelization. Peter was fervent in wanting Jewish people to believe in the sacredness of Jesus Christ.

As a member of the Catholic Church, I believe in a firm foundation. We should build our lives connected to the Church, have a personal relationship with Jesus and be able to be introspective about ourselves. At Caesarea Philippi, Peter was declared the rock of the Church. He has Jesus as his capstone, but the Church was built on Peter and the Apostles. With a firm foundation of Catholic teaching, we build our spiritual home with living stones. If we remain connected to the successor of Peter, the true title of any Pope, then we are connected to the universal Church. Through a rich blend of personal and communal prayer, we draw closer to Jesus. Jesus unifies us through the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Within the Mass, Jesus is present in not only bread and wine, but in the assembly gathered. We are the living stone scripture refers to. Through the grace of our Lord, we become transformed and sent out into the world to share the Good News. It can be done by thought, word, and deed. Our common baptism is the mortar that unites the living stones gathered as one in the name of Jesus.