

## REFLECTION FOR WEDNESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF EASTER

### Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11-19

In today's Gospel passage, taken from Jesus' high-priestly prayer, Jesus prays in particular for those disciples who are sharing the meal with him.

Jesus prayed for the victory, unity, protection, and consecration, of his disciples.

Jesus prayed that they might find **victory** by living out their Christianity in the rough-and-tumble of life. The disciples must win the world for Christ by living out their Christianity within the world. They must bear witness to Christ through their transparent Christian lives, reflecting Christ's love, mercy, forgiveness, and spirit of humble service.

Jesus prayed for the **unity** of his disciples. The world cannot be evangelized by competing Churches, and that is why Jesus prayed that his disciples might be as fully one as He and the Father are One. Christian unity is determined by whether and how well we love one another, and whether we reflect the love of God in Christ for the world. (Ephesians 4:4-6: *one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of us all, Who is above all and through all and in all*).

Jesus prayed for His **Father's protection** for his disciples from the attacks of the Evil One. If the disciples of Christ fall, it is because they try to meet life on their own strength alone, and do not remember the presence of their protecting God and seek His help.

Jesus prayed that his disciples might be **consecrated in the truth**. (a) 'Consecrate' means to set apart for a special task (Jer 1:5; Ex 28:41). (b) 'Consecrate' also means **to equip** a man with the qualities of mind, heart, and character which are necessary for that task. God has chosen us and dedicated us for His special service of loving and obeying Him ourselves **and** bringing others to do the same. He has not left us to carry out that great task with only our own strength, but by His grace He fits us for our task, if we place our lives in His hands.

We need to understand, appreciate, cooperate with, and pray with and for each other: The denominations are a reality. There is no use in our blaming each other for the historical events which caused these divisions in Christ's Body. What we can do is to learn sympathetically about the doctrinal similarities and differences among the members of our Christian community and learn to love each one and cooperate with the members of all denominations in all ways possible.

Let us pray fervently that God may show us how to proceed in building true and lasting Christian unity without sacrificing the basic Christian principles and teachings.

Fr Patrick