

Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 8, 2022

Our lectionary presents year C as our proclamation of the Gospel. In our Post-Easter readings, the book of Acts [Acts of the Apostle] presents the beginning of the Christian Church. The first chapters speak of the Ascension of Jesus into Heaven, and “days later” the experience of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles, which we know as Pentecost. This is celebrated as the birth of the Christian/Catholic Church. In today’s first reading, we record the preaching of Paul and Barnabas in their travels in what we know today as Turkey. They have caused quite a fuss because many Jews were beginning to become believers of this man, Jesus. The leaders of the Sanhedrin sent them threats if they continued to speak in the name of Jesus. But the Gentiles listened and began to believe Paul and Barnabas. Hence many Jewish people followed them and believed in the Resurrection of Jesus. Even as Paul and Barnabas were expelled from those villages, they rejoice that they rejoiced and so they “shook the dust from their feet in protest against them, and went to Iconium”.

The book of Acts traces many other stories about the development of the early Christian/Catholic Church. Take a few minutes in this Easter Season to read some of them.