

### Reflection Monday Week 3 Conversion of St Paul 2021

The week of prayer for Christian Unity finishes today on the feast of the conversion of St Paul, although we continue to pray for greater Unity. Paul's conversion was as radical as you can get. From persecuting Christians who he believed were working for the devil against God he became one of their fiercest advocates and missionaries. In our Assumptionist Rule of Life we are called to conversion every day. Conversion is a continual process, not always as radical as that of St Paul but conversion none the less, because we are always being opened to something new and at times asked to leave old ways and old understandings behind. This past week the prayers and reflections have brought to light that the unity we seek among the different Churches and within Christendom brings healing to the whole world. Just as when we seek God's mercy for ourselves, we also pray God's mercy for the sins of the world and for our local community and Church. In seeking healing for ourselves we become healers for others. In praying for Unity, we become a source of and inspiration of Unity at home, within our community, for our Church and for the world. In all cases, however, we allow Christ, the true healer, to work not only within us but also through us. Although there is a discrepancy about how many years after his conversion Paul became a missionary, we know his conversion lasted at least several years before it came to full effect. Conversion is a life-long process that only finds its completion with Christ in Heaven.

*We participate in the work of the Spirit so that creation in all its fullness may continue to praise God. When nature suffers, when human beings are crushed, the Spirit of the risen Christ – far from allowing us to lose heart – invites us to become part of his work of healing. The newness of life that Christ brings, however hidden, is a light of hope for many. It is a wellspring of reconciliation for the whole of creation and contains a joy that comes from beyond ourselves.* **Grandchamp Community**

Trice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us.  
We thank you for your presence in us and in creation.  
May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love.  
In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world  
where justice and peace flourish,  
for the glory of your name. Amen.

A zealous pastor in Kentucky made great effort to convert a particularly vicious old mountaineer named Jim, notorious for his godlessness. But the old man was hard-headed and stubborn, firmly rooted in his ways and resisted every effort made.

Pastor: Jim, ain't you touched by the story of the Lord what died to save yer soul?"

Jim: Humph! Are ye aiming to tell me the Lord died to save me, when He ain't never seed me, nor knowed me?

Pastor: Oh Jim, it was a darn sight easier for the Lord to die for ye **because** He never seed ye than if He had knowed ye as well as we all do!