

## Homily 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter Year C 2022

Not too long ago those training for the priesthood were commissioned in various ministries – porter, exorcist, reader and acolyte before being ordained a subdeacon, then a deacon and finally a Priest. One of the first ministries was that of porter, the doorkeeper. His responsibility in the early church was to open and close the church and guard the door during the celebration of Mass. Paul VI suppressed these first four ministries in 1972.

In the Acts, the apostles went to different communities, some closed the door in their face while others opened the door to them with joy and gladness. Acts makes it clear that God is the real door opener. When the apostles were forced out of one community, God led them to another one only too happy to welcome them and become followers of Christ.

Any serious reflection on life will reveal how often God opens doors for us. As ministers of the Gospel - which we are by virtue of our baptism - we open doors in people's lives so that God may enter in. This makes any mission given by Jesus a collaboration with God. Our mission is to help people recognise how God is present in their lives. To do this we need to be clear about how God is present within us. Be encouraged by these words of Macrina Wiederkehr OSB:

- *All too often we bemoan our imperfections rather than embrace them as part of the process in which we are brought to God. Cherished emptiness gives God space in which to work. We are pure capacity for God. Let us not, then, take our littleness lightly. It is a wonderful grace. It is a gift to receive. At the same time, let us not get trapped in the confines of our littleness, but keep pushing on to claim our greatness. Remind yourself often, "I am pure capacity for God; I can be more.*

- *Holiness comes wrapped in the ordinary. There are burning bushes all around you. Every tree is full of angels. Hidden beauty is waiting in every crumb. Life wants to lead you from crumbs to angels, but this can happen only if you are willing to unwrap the ordinary by staying with it long enough to harvest its treasure.*

- *O Tree of God - Tree of Life, I stand in the gift of your shade, my heart raised to your Creator. Your branches call me to reach out in all directions to many people. Your branches remind me of the sheltering arms of God. Your roots call me to be rooted in all that is good and nourishing. .... Teach me, like you, to praise God in the silence of my being. Help me to surrender unnecessary words and draw me, like a magnet, into the abiding love of God.....*

- ***I put a " No Flyers" sign on my front door.***     *The next day I was sent two Emus and an Ostrich.*
- ***A man knocked on my door and asked if I could make a small donation to help the neighbourhood public swimming-pool.***             ***I gave him a glass of water.***