

Reflection Monday 6th Week Easter 2022

Isn't it good to hear the importance and value that Luke gives to women in the life and preaching of the Good News in his writings? We are introduced to Lydia who is only too willing to open her heart and her life to Jesus and immediately commits herself to looking after and supporting Paul and Barnabas. Elsewhere in Acts it is clear that Women were often the leaders of newly founded Christian communities. Yet all this happened in a paternalistic society. It raises the question of why women lost their status over the following centuries. It would be a good exercise to find the names of the 26 women Luke mentions in his writings.

Let Pope Francis speak:

"The organization of societies worldwide is still far from reflecting clearly that women possess the same dignity and identical rights as men. We say one thing with words, but our decisions and reality tell another story. Indeed, "doubly poor are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights".

"When we speak of women, we speak in a functional way: a woman is for doing this, for doing, no! First, she is for something else: woman brings something without which the world would not be like this. She brings a richness that man and all of creation and all the animals do not have. When there is no woman, harmony is lacking. Without woman there is no harmony."

"That women in society must be involved in decision-making is not only right for reasons of equality, but also for the specific insights that women bring to the process. This "feminine genius" will prove most valuable, as women increasingly play major roles in the solution of the serious challenges the world is facing."