

## Fr. Martin's Reflection - September 15, 2024

### 'Who do People say I am?'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This question, 'Who do People say I am?' isn't me asking, it is the question Jesus asked his disciples. It wasn't Jesus being insecure or desiring to be remembered. Jesus asked the question to see if what the disciples had heard and witnessed was beginning to reveal Jesus' true self to them. Jesus didn't simply want to tell the disciples that he was the 'Son of God,' but for them to come to that realization by reflecting on what they had witnessed and heard. He wanted them to make that declaration of faith and belief by their own freewill.

The question Jesus asked the disciples is as relevant today as it was at the time of Jesus. Who do I say Jesus is? We can't simply answer that question without first observing Jesus in action. There is no way the disciples could have answered that question without first spending the time they did with Jesus, listening to his teachings and witnessing the healing of the sick and finding Jesus associating with the abandoned and forgotten. We must do the same. We must read the gospels. We must read about the life of Jesus. We must read about the early years. What was it like to be exiled in a foreign country? What was it like to be separated from your parents for a number of days? What was it like to speak to the elders in the Temple, where did he get such courage? How scared was he to begin his public ministry, did he wonder about the twelve he chose as disciples? How could he sit at table and give his Body and Blood to a disciple knowing he was going to betray him? Did he feel the Father's presence during the imprisonment and up to the crucifixion?

For us to be truly able to answer the question, 'Who do I say Jesus is?' I need to compare my life to Jesus' life. My sufferings to his sufferings, my friends to his friends. We need to look close at the life of Jesus. Who helped him? Who helped pick him up, who encouraged him? And the biggest question of all, do I believe Jesus is there for me? Can I recognize Jesus in the actions of the people around me? It all begins with reading about the life of Jesus and then lifting our heads and looking around and seeing his presence in the actions of the people we live with, work with, and play with.

Let us take time to see Christ in others and allow Christ to reach us through the people he sends into our lives.

Blessings for the week ahead.

*Fr. Martin*