

April 12, 2008
Saturday of the Third Week of Easter

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Acts 9:31-42

Psalm 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

John 6:60-69

Many of the disciples of Jesus who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?"

I remember working with a young man who was struggling in school. He had great difficulty understanding the concepts of the subject matter and struggled week after week after week. He was capable, but the necessary effort for success was more than he wanted to give at that time in his life. At one point during our session, he simply said, "This is too hard, I don't want to do it anymore." And, he gave up. No amount of encouragement changed his mind. I often wonder about him. I wonder if he ever came to believe that he was worth the effort or if he continued to see only the hard work ahead. I think about that when the road gets tough and I want to give up. I think about that when I see others around me take the easy of immediate gratification. The short cuts of life tell us that the only thing worth getting is what makes us happy. Jesus challenges us to live a life that leads to holiness. That is the long cut, the choice that requires a cost. However, it is the only choice that offers hope for something better than a life of material success and immediate gratification can offer. The resurrection of Jesus is the promise of this way of life. We don't have to be perfect at this way of life. We only need to put one foot in front of the other in the direction of Jesus.

When the world says, "Give up," Hope whispers, "Try it one more time."

□~Author Unknown