

May 8, 2008  
Thursday of the Seventh Week of Easter

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

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

Acts 22:30; 23:6-11

16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

Jn 17:20-26

*"I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us,*

Jesus' prayer is for us, that we might all be one. In fact, Jesus' life was dedicated to that prayer. What is my life dedicated to? What is your life dedicated to? Someone recently asked me what I thought was the most serious problem today. I have thought about quite a bit and I believe it is lack of character. Somehow we have traded in character development for the pursuit of self-esteem. The irony of that is that self-esteem is never gained if it is the primary pursuit. That pursuit is too self-focused. The life Jesus shows us is service focused. And, through it we find a healthy sense of OK-ness about our self. This is my prayer for today.

*But what I would like to say is that the spiritual life is a life in which you gradually learn to listen to a voice that says something else, that says, "You are the beloved and on you my favor rests." ... I want you to hear that voice. It is not a very loud voice because it is an intimate voice. It comes from a very deep place. It is soft and gentle. I want you to gradually hear that voice. We both have to hear that voice and to claim for ourselves that that voice speaks the truth, our truth. It tells us who we are. That is where the spiritual life starts - by claiming the voice that calls us the beloved. ~Henri Nouwen*