

# Living out our Easter Faith

May 2017

As we wind our way through the days and weeks of the Easter season (waiting for some [sun](#) and warmer weather), we listen to readings from the Acts of the Apostles which recount the emerging growth and the spiritual energy of the early disciples. Whether it was the Apostles preaching in the streets of Jerusalem or St. Paul on a missionary journey to Greek speaking cities, people were proclaiming and living their faith in very concrete ways. They clearly heard Jesus' instruction to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth. And people in every succeeding generation have done the same.

[Today \(May 10\)](#) the Church celebrates the feast of a much admired saint – St. Damien of Molokai. Born in 1840 in Belgium and the youngest of seven children, Damien grew up helping on the family farm before he joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. His brother was a member of the same community and had been assigned to go to a remote mission in Hawaii. When he became ill, Damien stepped forward and offered to go in his place. Damien ministered in Hawaii for nine years before moving to a newly established leper colony. Exposed to the dreaded disease Damien knew that he would never be able to leave that colony. He poured himself into serving the people and personally provided much of the care that people needed until he himself became a leper.

Like the Apostles in the first century and Damien in the 19th century, we are all called and sent into our 21st century world to be witnesses and disciples. We are called to go beyond the comfort of our homes and neighborhoods to meet and help and serve others. A group eight parishioners representing St. Mary's will do just that when they travel to Haiti at the end of the month. And it is my hope and prayer that more than 200 parishioners will serve others on our **Parish Day of Service** on Saturday, [May 20th](#).

Our fifth Parish Day of Service brings together children, teens, and adults and sends them out into the community of Shrewsbury and Worcester to offer concrete assistance to people in need. It could be a visit to a homebound or nursing home parishioner, help with yard work, caring for

creation, or helping out at one of the many ministries/agencies in Worcester that help the poor and those in need. Please take some time to look at our [parish website](#) and the descriptions of 25 different projects to choose from. And plan to join us as we go “into the world” to live out our Easter faith.