



**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 29, 2020**

(LEC. 275)

**WEDNESDAY OF THE
THIRD WEEK OF EASTER**

**(OBL MEM Saint Catherine of Siena,
Virgin and Doctor of the Church)**

1. ACTS 8:1B-8

2. JOHN 6:35-40

GOSPEL RELATED: CCC 161, 606, 989,
994, 1001, 1338, 2824

FOCUS: WE BELONG TO JESUS, AND OUR CALL IS TO BRING OTHERS TO HIM AS WELL.

Jesus' words today can give us a sense of security and peace: Jesus, obeying the will of the Father, will not reject any who come to him and will not lose any of the people the Father has sent to him. And knowing that we belong to Jesus and that he won't lose us, we can let go of any fears and follow the example of Jesus' first disciples — preach Jesus with our actions and our lives.

The Apostles remained in Jerusalem — in spite of persecution — and developed the early Church, while those who were scattered brought more and more people to belief in Jesus through their preaching and their great works: Casting out demons and healing the paralyzed and crippled.

“But,” we might say, “I can't do what those disciples did. I've never cast out demons or healed the paralyzed or the crippled.” And maybe most of us can't — not in the same dramatic way. But, as we preach Jesus through our daily lives and through loving service to others, we can help them dispel the demons of fear and hopelessness that have enveloped them. We can help others who are overwhelmed or paralyzed by the sufferings of the world to take action again and to reach out in small ways that bring joy and

hope to the lives of people. Since we belong to Jesus, we can stop being afraid for ourselves and open our hearts to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit may surprise us in how we are called to make a difference.

We can see the work of the Spirit in the life of Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-80), a lay Dominican whose memorial the Church celebrates today. The Holy Spirit called her out of her prayerful solitude to reform the Church and the lives of others. In her short life, she visited the sick, wrote spiritual letters to people of all ranks, and drew a following. She was instrumental in the restoration to Rome of the papacy, and was a peacemaker among warring Italian states. So compelling was her faith that she began a monastery for women in 1377, and composed a large corpus of theological works. These works were so influential that she was declared a Doctor of the Church.

The Holy Spirit moved through the daily work of Saint Catherine of Siena, and longs to continue to work through each of us today. Let us be led by the Holy Spirit and bring others to the joy and peace of knowing and serving Jesus and his people.

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