1. **Romans 16:1-2**

* Why did Paul commend this individual named Phoebe?
* Reflect on this passage, what does this say to you about women in the early church?

1. **Romans 16:3-16**

* **Acts 18:1-4, 1 Corinthians 16:19, 2 Timothy 4:19-22**
* Who are Aquila and Priscilla?
* Why was Paul “grateful” for them?
* Who else appreciated them?
* **Origen** (185 - 254 A.D.) *Commentary on The Epistles To The Romans*

“This shows that Priscilla and Aquila were hospitable to Gentiles as well as to Jews. Hospitality is highly esteemed both by God and by man.”

* **St. Chrysostom** (347 – 407 A.D.) *Homily Concerning Lowliness of Mind Section 6*

“And that the disciples too were bound up with Paul with all perfectness; and that not men only but women also, hear what he says about Phoebe. "Now I commend to you Phoebe the sister, being a deaconess of the Church which is in Cenchreae; that ye may receive her in the Lord worthily of the holy ones, and stand by her, in whatever matter she may require you, since she has proved a helper of many; and of me myself." But in this instance he bore witness to her of her zeal so far as help went, but Priscilla and Aquila went as far even as death for Paul's sake; and about them he thus writes, saying, "Aquila and Priscilla salute you, who for my life's sake laid down their own neck;" for death clearly. And about another again writing to these very persons he says, "Because he went as far as death; having counselled ill for his life, in order that he might supply your deficiency in your service towards me. See how they loved their teacher? How they regarded his rest before their own life? On this account no one surpassed them then. Now this I say, not that we may hear only, but that we may also imitate; and not to the ruled only, but also to those who rule is what we say addressed; in order that both scholars may display much solicitude about their teachers, and the teachers may have the same loving affection as Paul about those placed under them; not those present only, but also those who are far off.”

* What stands out to you from these two early Church writings?
* What can we learn from Aguila, Priscilla, Phoebe and Paul?
* Who today would be considered the official “teachers” of the faith?

1. **Romans 16:17-27**

* What warning does Paul give here?
* Do we as Catholics face such obstacles even today?
* How can we be sure we are not misled?
* Reflect on **Romans 16:20**, **Genesis 3:11-15**, **Psalm 92:9-13**, and **Revelation 20:2** do you see any possible connection between what Paul states and what we see in **Genesis**, the **Psalm** or **Revelation**? Please share…
* **Catechism** **11-13**