

Yesterday, as I walked out of the Diocesan Offices and got into my truck, driving away I saw an older gentleman and his grandson in a corner of the parking lot. The man was doing what appeared to be a Chinese slow-motion martial art; and the boy was looking on.

Curious, I stopped my truck and watched. I guess that must have spooked the man, because he looked at me and gestured to the boy that they should leave.

I got out of my truck and approached him; and he looked flustered. He said one word in Chinese: “tàijíquán” ... and much to his surprise, I answered in the same language and said, “I know.”

We had a conversation about the merits of various Chinese exercise and random small talk as best as my vocabulary would allow. When I explained that this was the local offices of the Catholic church, and behind was a Catholic high school.

He said in Chinese: “I am Catholic.” When I asked where he went to church, he said, “I’m from the mainland,” that is Communist China.

We wrapped up the conversation, and went our separate ways.

In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Phillip is led by the Holy Spirit to go talk to an Ethiopian official in a chariot. It just so happens that this man is trying to understand some of the prophetic writings in Isaiah that apply to Jesus.

And the Scripture puts it so eloquently: “Philip opened his mouth and, ... he proclaimed Jesus to him.”

It sounds so easy.

Yet, that is what we are called to do – follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and proclaim Jesus. For all of us, that is to be done in the way we live our lives. But we cannot always leave it at that. Whether it is by invitation, or explanation; all Christians are called to ‘open their mouths, and proclaim Jesus.’

The closer we draw to Christ, the closer we draw to God; the more we will become ‘magnetized’ by the Love of God. And people will be drawn to our example.

This is an awesome responsibility, and requires that we pray, both in our own words and using Scripture. Our relationship with God and with Christ needs to be in such a way that other people see us, and say “I want that, too.”

Let us pray to receive the graces so that we may live the Christian life in all of its depth and breadth – that our lives may become a reflection of God’s Love so that in the Spirit, we may proclaim the Son to those drawn in by the Father.