

## Homily Sunday May 17, 2020:

At this point in the Easter Season every year I start reminding us that Pentecost is coming. Our reading from The Acts of the Apostles gives one of the examples in the first years of the Church how intimately they recognized the need for the Holy Spirit to be with each member. In this reading we recognize that WE also need the Holy Spirit guiding us.

Next Sunday we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven. Then the following Sunday - Pentecost – the conclusion of Easter with the celebration of the Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Young Church.

Our Gospel readings during these weeks come from those passages at the Last Supper where Jesus is speaking words of leaving and sending another Advocate. These words make sense now, as we anticipate the Ascension of Christ and the Descent of the Holy Spirit. These words reveal some of the inner dynamic of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This revelation of the Trinity is one that Our Lord promises us we will be sharing in if we remain in His love.

The Person of the Holy Spirit is who we particularly ponder when we think of our Confirmation. I think of this today because until the Quarantine, this past week was the time many of our young parishioners would have been Confirmed. They are still awaiting the Holy Spirit, who made a home in them at Baptism, to come again and strengthen (confirm – make firm and strong) their relationship.

The Holy Spirit is that other Advocate Jesus spoke about. The Spirit is “another” because Jesus also is our Advocate. As we celebrate the Ascension next Sunday, we will remember that Christ is now seated - Humanity and Divinity - at the right hand of the Father, always advocating, always interceding for us.

To live in the Holy Spirit is to live in the life of God.

I ask everyone to pray for one person waiting to be confirmed. You do not need to know their name. Spiritually adopt someone. Pray that this young man or young woman may be open to the graces the Spirit pours upon them. Pray that this person will walk with the Holy Spirit every day of their life. Pray for that person – whoever they are - daily for the next few months.

I ask you to make a second daily pray as well. This prayer is for another person. Please pray daily for someone who has chosen NOT to be Confirmed.

There are many people – whether they truly realize what Confirmation is or not – who refused to receive this Sacrament when they came of age.

To us this doesn't make sense. After all, who would not want the Counselor, the Spirit of Truth, the Divine Third Person of the Trinity to again come down on them so that they might walk more closely with God; so that they might make better decisions? But some do.

Some people actually DO choose to go about their life without the strengthening gifts of The Advocate. They make life decisions without consulting Him who has made their bodies His temple.

Please pray for those who have let their love of Christ grow cold. Pray for those who wander. Pray for those whose hearts are hardened and eyes are dimmed. Pray they be Confirmed – and are open to the gifts they receive. One of the things we know of all the graces God gives us in the Sacraments is that even though they are given, we have access to them according to our openness to “according to the mode of the receiver,” or, according to our readiness and openness.

And let that prayer for them also reenergize your life in the Spirit.

May YOU come to appreciate more and more the life of God within you. Recommit yourselves every day to Love without end. Renew your promise to following Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Christ, who then has a way – a command – that leads to life everlasting, and to happiness in this life.

Commend yourself to the Holy Spirit's guidance. The Spirit of Truth is also the Spirit of Love. He loves you. Ask Him that you may experience that love.

And in that love, others will be blessed. And others will see that love. And others will desire what you have.