

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

My beloved brothers and sisters, in our world today, there is so much cynicism, so much hatred, so much violence, so much fear, so much hopelessness. It is very easy to give into these hallmarks of hell, these signposts of Satan, the Opposer of God and the Opposer of the brethren the People of God! But we are called to be a people of joy, courage and hope, because our Lord Jesus Christ has Risen, He has conquered sin and death for those who believe in Him and stake their lives upon Him. And the signs of His dynamic and living presence are still all around us today! Next week, we will celebrate the Ascension of Christ, but that does not mean that He has left us; rather, it means that He is now at work within each of us who Believe. He is still at work in the world, and His constant miracles that are at work in the world attest to His Divine Presence with us.

Most of us have probably experienced these miracles! Our Holy Father St. Anthony works little miracles for me, almost every week! I lose things, say a prayer to him, and inevitably, and miraculously, I find them in places I would never expect! If I don't its because it's and impossible case, and so he remands it to St. Jude!

Walter Hooper, a convert to Catholicism and an advisor to C.S. Lewis is a witness to a great miracle. He had been diagnosed with terminal cancer and was in great pain. He went to Rome, and met Pope John Paul the Great. When he bent over to kiss His Papal ring, he immediately felt the pain disappear. At the same time Pope John Paul winced and tightened his grip for a moment, obviously in great pain. Pope John Paul said to him: "It's ok!", don't worry!" He had taken the cancer upon himself through the power of Jesus. When Hooper went back home to England, he discovered that he had been completely cured!

We just canonized Jacinta do Fatima, and Francisco do Fatima. In Brazil, a young boy fell thirty feet from a window to the street below. His father, while carrying him to the hospital prayed to these two saints for his little four year old boy, who was given no hope of survival. The next day, to the astonishment of the nurses and doctors, he got out of bed, and walked home, completely healed! Jesus loves

His people and is still at work in the world through His saints! These are all signs of hope for our hopeless times!

This Sunday's readings all remind us of the reasons for our hope, and the necessity for us who believe to share this hope with those who are so very hopeless! Jesus did not leave us alone!

In the first reading, St. Philip may have had to leave Jerusalem, but the plan of God was for him to begin to missionize Samaria! God blessed his work by his preaching and by the miracles Jesus worked through his ministry. People were not only amazed, they welcomed his message. He cast out demons, and paved the way for the Baptism of many. The Apostles heard of his work, and because of his work, they knew that they too were called to share the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and began to go out into the world to proclaim the Gospel of Hope and Salvation!

In the second reading, St. Peter reminds us that we too must always be ready to share the reasons for our hope with others, especially the hopeless, not just with our words, but with our joy and thanksgiving! If we are unhappy Christians, then we need to be re-evangelized ourselves!

In the Gospel, Jesus gives us the ultimate reason for our hope and joy: He has poured out the Divine Advocate, the Holy Spirit within us in our Baptism, Confirmation and in my Holy Orders! Jesus is always, always with us in His Holy Spirit! And, thanks to Him, we are never, never alone! God is still at work in us and through us! Jesus still works His great miracles in us and through us! We are never, never alone! Amen? Amen! Amen!