

Sixth Sunday of Easter 2019

My beloved brothers and sisters, the gospel for today is part of the farewell dialogue of Jesus at the Last Supper. John was there, it was so poignant that he remembered it all. He remembered it because it reveals the infinite love that God has for us all and most especially for the beloved disciples of His Son, Jesus. In this passage, the Lord Jesus reveals one of the greatest messages of the Gospel: when we are Baptized, God Himself, the Blessed Trinity, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, actually come into our souls and take up residence there; we are Divinized by the Sacred Indwelling of the Trinity. It is the reason why we bow to each other, and the reason why we say to one another: "The Lord be with you- and with your Spirit!"

It is the reason why Jesus Ascended to the Right Hand of the Father fifty days after His Resurrection; because God desired a closer and most intimate relationship with each of us, beyond our earthly limits, beyond our human nature! Since Jesus, the Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, the One God, who has One Nature, dwells in His Body and Soul in Heaven, He can now be present to each one of us at all times, and makes us present to God! Since the three Persons of the Trinity share the same nature, where one is, all three are, and we are in Him, and He is in us! This is possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit given by Jesus on the Cross, when He breathes out His Spirit. It is He who gives us the capacity to love like God loves!

It is the Spirit who is the source of joy and peace in our lives, and it is the Spirit who empowers us to know Christ, more and more intimately and to live in Him, as He lives in us. And Jesus wants us to know Him in His fullness in our lives; however, the only way we can do this, is through substantial and constant prayer. Prayer is the vital and personal relationship with the True God. It is more than talking to God, it is dwelling in Him as He dwells in us, locked into His Eternal embrace of Divine Love. The Church teaches us that although there are many forms of prayer, these are the most efficacious: first: The Mass, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, then the prayer of the Rosary, which Jesus and Mary have told us are the most powerful of all prayers, Meditation, praying with the

Sacred Scripture, thinking about them and allowing Jesus to speak to our hearts about what we have read, and spending time with Jesus simply talking to Him like we talk with one another! Prayer is the life of the Spirit flowing through the Vine into the Branches of the Vine, without it, the Branches die. My brothers and sisters, we have dozens of opportunities to grow in our Spiritual Lives in this Parish: The New Evangelization Retreat and its weekly prayer groups, daily Adoration, Rosary groups, The men's prayer group at 6:00 am on Wednesday, Adult Education groups, and on and on. Jesus wants to set our hearts on fire, but we must allow Him to do so, and that requires our participation! If we do so, we will know the peace that no one can take from us, and the joy of the Spirit that will fill up our lives!