



The Gospel & Homily † el Evangelio y la Homilía

17 May 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Sexto Domingo de Pascua

Special Announcements

We are not meeting for Mass this Sunday. I hope that as you read this you feel the absence of your church family and pray for their safety; and for all those who suffer from sickness. May God protect the faithful.

Let us pray for the departure of this virus that changes how we worship and takes away our closeness; but never alters our love and faith in the Lord.

We pray for our loved ones and so many others in the world.

We are steadfast in the face of this challenge, through the courage and example of Jesus Christ.

Other announcements

- Prayers for Caroline as she plans for a surgery next Thursday, and for John who had an injury at work
- There are no birthdays or anniversaries this week
- A video for Mass of today is being prepared. Quite a project but it will be successful.
- There will be no Mass next Sunday the 24th; perhaps longer. We will watch the news carefully and evaluate the safety of our church gathering. Church members will be contacted by phone, text or email regarding the next Mass date.
- We met as a group on Wednesday. It was our first Parking Lot Meeting. We all talked about how we were doing while we cannot meet in church as we love to do along with worship and fellowship. Father Michael posed the question of a weekday Mass. The question will be revisited next Wednesday, and a decision will be made to begin or wait a while longer. In the meantime, please answer sooner if you have an opinion. Email, text or call your pastor.



In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.



We pray

Suscipe - St. Ignatius Loyola

Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty,
my memory, my understanding and my whole will.

All that I am and all that I possess, You have given me:

I surrender it all to You to be disposed of according to Your will.

Give me only Your love and Your grace;

with these I will be rich enough, and will desire nothing more.

† Amen

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do. And I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

My God, I am sorry for my sins because I have offended you. I know I should love you above all things. Help me to do penance, to do better, and to avoid anything that might lead me to sin. Amen.



Collect

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Gospel John 14:15-21

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."



Homily

Our lesson is from the last evening of Jesus with his closest disciples. It is very difficult for them to understand what Jesus is telling them. For example, this statement... "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always."

This portion of the Gospel of John could be thought of as the coach's pep talk. Words of wisdom to help build courage and strength for the team. "In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live." Meaning; we'll all be in heaven.

Elsewhere in this chapter of John, Jesus even disclaims the core of this pep talk and credits God, his father: "the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me." That phrase puts the power of God into the words.

Two more elements of this courage-building talk: "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

This is what we do each week. The Holy Spirit is here with us each week. We gather in Jesus's name; we consecrate bread and wine and we take the body of Christ inside of us.

The Holy Spirit helps us to believe that we will have salvation... that the Lord loves us and will take care of us and bring us to heaven.



Our religious service is sacramental. It is a ritual and a blessing; the pattern that is mostly unchanged for more than a thousand years. Other Christian churches meet in the name of Christ and their service is no less holy or meaningful than ours. They meet together and the Holy Spirit guides them. They may or may not have communion. They are not wrong, just different. They follow another practice of faith and religion.

The common bond of Christian fellowship is peace, harmony and worship of God. The focus of a Christian religious gathering is an echo of the last supper with Jesus being present with his disciples; even modern-day disciples of today which all of you are.

At their last supper with their teacher the apostles are full of grief to hear that their teacher will be arrested and executed. Jesus says, "Peace I leave you; my peace I give to you."

Jesus is at peace with the events that will occur. He has super-peace... and he gives it to his followers. It is not just a symbolic peace. It will be peace in the form of the Holy Spirit. One that will teach and guide.

Let's go back to a phrase we mentioned earlier. To his disciples Jesus says, "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me."

Meaning... Are you with me? Ah, but I bet some of you stray sometimes. (finger shaking)

Here is a broader translation. We don't always listen to his teachings and words. We disobey and that is sinful. Sinning is failing to honor and love the Lord. Ouch.

There is no gloss or smiley face you can put on that. You cannot say, "Sure I love God but I sometimes do sinful things that I can't control."

You are to love the Lord with all your heart. Stay on track with worship and your best behavior; and then you deserve heaven. Fail to stay the course and you deserve another place... not heaven.

Keep the Lord in your heart every day of your life. May God bless you and give you strength.



Evangelio Juan 14: 15-21

Jesús dijo: —Si ustedes me aman, obedecerán mis mandamientos. Y yo le pediré al Padre que les mande otro Defensor, el Espíritu de la verdad, para que esté siempre con ustedes. Los que son del mundo no lo pueden recibir, porque no lo ven ni lo conocen; pero ustedes lo conocen, porque él permanece con ustedes y estará en ustedes. »No los voy a dejar huérfanos; volveré para estar con ustedes. Dentro de poco, los que son del mundo ya no me verán; pero ustedes me verán, y vivirán porque yo vivo. En aquel día, ustedes se darán cuenta de que yo estoy en mi Padre, y ustedes están en mí, y yo en ustedes. El que recibe mis mandamientos y los obedece, demuestra que de veras me ama. Y mi Padre amará al que me ama, y yo también lo amaré y me mostraré a él.



Homilía

Nuestra lección es de la última noche de Jesús con sus discípulos más cercanos. Es muy difícil para ellos entender lo que Jesús les está diciendo. Por ejemplo, esta declaración ... "Le pediré al Padre, y él le dará otro Abogado para que esté siempre con usted".

Esta porción del Evangelio de Juan podría considerarse como la charla animadora del entrenador. Palabras de sabiduría para ayudar a crear coraje y fortaleza para el equipo. "Dentro de poco, el mundo ya no me verá, pero tú me verás, porque yo vivo y tú vivirás". Sentido; todos estaremos en el cielo

En otra parte de este capítulo de Juan, Jesús incluso niega el núcleo de esta charla y da crédito a Dios, su padre: "la palabra que escuchas no es mía, sino la del Padre que me envió". Esa frase pone el poder de Dios en las palabras.

Dos elementos más de esta charla para fortalecer el coraje: "el Espíritu Santo, a quien el Padre enviará en mi nombre, te enseñará todo y te recordará todo lo que te dije".



Esto es lo que hacemos cada semana. El Espíritu Santo está aquí con nosotros cada semana. Nos reunimos en el nombre de Jesús; consagramos pan y vino y tomamos el cuerpo de Cristo dentro de nosotros.

El Espíritu Santo nos ayuda a creer que tendremos salvación ... que el Señor nos ama y nos cuidará y nos llevará al cielo.

Nuestro servicio religioso es sacramental. Es un ritual y una bendición; el patrón que prácticamente no ha cambiado durante más de mil años. Otras iglesias cristianas se reúnen en nombre de Cristo y su servicio no es menos santo o significativo que el nuestro. Se reúnen y el Espíritu Santo los guía. Pueden o no tener comunión. No están equivocados, solo son diferentes. Siguen otra práctica de fe y religión.

El vínculo común de la comunión cristiana es la paz, la armonía y la adoración a Dios. El foco de una reunión religiosa cristiana es un eco de la última cena con Jesús presente con sus discípulos; incluso los discípulos de hoy en día que todos ustedes son.

En su última cena con su maestro, los apóstoles están llenos de dolor al escuchar que su maestro será arrestado y ejecutado. Jesús dice: "Paz, te dejo; mi paz te doy".

Jesús está en paz con los eventos que ocurrirán. Tiene súper paz ... y se la da a sus seguidores. No es solo una paz simbólica. Será paz en la forma del Espíritu Santo. Uno que enseñará y guiará.

Volvamos a una frase que mencionamos anteriormente. A sus discípulos Jesús les dice: "Quien tiene mis mandamientos y los observa es el que me ama".

Es decir ... ¿estás conmigo? Ah, pero apuesto a que algunos de ustedes se desvían a veces. (dedos temblando)

Aquí hay una traducción más amplia. No siempre escuchamos sus enseñanzas y palabras. Desobedecemos y eso es pecaminoso. Pecar es no honrar y amar al Señor. Ay.

No hay brillo o carita feliz que puedas poner en eso. No puedes decir: "Claro que amo a Dios, pero a veces hago cosas pecaminosas que no puedo controlar".

Debes amar al Señor con todo tu corazón. Mantente al día con la adoración y tu mejor comportamiento; y entonces te mereces el cielo. Si no puedes mantener el rumbo y te mereces otro lugar ... no el cielo.

Mantenga al Señor en su corazón todos los días de su vida. Que Dios te bendiga y te dé fuerzas.

