26th May 2019 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

From the Desk of the Pastor....

"Do not let your hearts be troubled..... Have faith in God and have faith also in me ......." Jn 14:1

Today Jesus offers the much needed healing with his spirit of love and peace. The peace that Jesus experienced came from his loving relationship he had with His Father. His fidelity to the Father defined this relationship of love. This was the unshakeable anchor that held Him secure even when the baroque of his soul was buffeted by the severest storms. Jesus offers us his peace: “Peace I leave with you”. The peace he offers is not the peace of escape from reality. It is the peace of conquest, something so deep that no sorrow or fear or anxiety or trouble can rob us of it.

However, we cannot give this peace to others, if we do not have it ourselves. Christ is the healer, He who was wounded for our sins, now heals our wounds of hurt, sin and division, comes to liberate us, redeem us and bring us life. He comes today to calm our fears and heal our anguish and pain.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

FORMED

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Parish Family Picture Directory

Continuing with our Quasquicentennial celebration, we will be doing a new family pictorial directory and we hope every family will be in it. Lifetouch will be at the parish doing family portraits for six days, July 11th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th & 21st. Make plans now to schedule your appointment on our first sign-up weekend after all Masses on June 1st & 2nd. Each participating family will receive a free 8” x 10” portrait and a free copy of the directory when it is finished. There is no charge and you are not obligated to purchase more pictures and the parish gets no money from your purchases.

We hope you’ll join us because our directory won’t be complete without YOU!

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day. The office will re-open for Parish business on Tuesday, May 28th.

Parting is such sweet sorrow

Having experienced the pain and sorrow of the crucifixion, then the joy and new life of the resurrection, the followers of Jesus now have to face the reality of the Risen Lord's departure – again. He senses their confusion, pain and sense of loss. But before he leaves them, he gives those two parting gifts; The Holy Spirit and his own Peace.

He doesn’t give them all the answers to the questions they have. He knows that they will have to face difficulties, disagreements and differences. So he prepares them for the road ahead by strengthening and encouraging them with His risen life through the gifts of the Holy Spirit and his own inner Peace. He is sending them out to proclaim the good news, but he does not expect them to do it on their own.

Encouraged by His presence they will never be alone or helpless and neither are we, who are the community of believers today. We are asked face our daily reality and lives not just with optimism but with faith and hope in the risen Jesus and each other. Through celebrating and sharing in the resurrection, each of us also shares in and experiences the Peace of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. As we continue our journey through Easter, we that we will be blest with the gifts of Christ’s Peace and encouraged by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus promises to leave us the gift of peace, his "shalom," a term that conveys the sense of wholeness when God is ever present and in charge of the concerns of men and women of faith. The world cannot provide anyone this profound "shalom" of God. The world can at best offer only prolonged periods of relative calm, not this peace promised by Jesus; a true and active peace that "surpasses all understanding." Take this to heart as you prepare for worship. The peace we know as Christians is a gift from God. When we experience that unique "shalom" from heaven we gain the spiritual confidence that in the end all will be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.

This is the last Sunday before we celebrate the feast of the Ascension which we celebrate next weekend. Jesus is saying He will be going away. He is speaking about a Mission he wants to give to the disciples. It is no longer his mission; it becomes the Mission of his followers. It is a Mission given also to us. Jesus played his part and now it’s up to us to live with Mission. He sends his Spirit to us. He declares: "This much I have told you while I was still with you; the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name will instruct you in everything and remind you of all that I told you." This is a gift to us! He prepares his disciples of a living legacy, guided on Mission by the Paraclete.