

## **6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Homily, A cycle, 5-21-17**

**In John's gospel today which took place at the Last Supper, Jesus is about to go from his disciples. He makes three promises to his disciples...and to us**

### **1. First promise: I will send you another advocate**

**a. Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit the energy and the staying power of our faith.**

**i. Describe the African offertory procession last week and how it expressed the ENERGY of the Spirit**

**ii. Tell the story of the man from Better Men Outreach: lost his wife to cancer last week; has three young daughters; the Sunday afternoon group of men is his staying power.**

**iii. The witness story of Paul Anthony who entered the Church last Easter. He was shot and paralyzed as a teen and had to slowly learn how to remove hate from his heart and forgive. He sent a note back to the parish recently stating, "I will be back soon. God has been leading me. I've been through some trying times but I never lost faith. For as scripture teaches, God never lets go of your hand." That is staying power!**

**iv. The Fedeson family came to the 4:00 mass yesterday with their parents who were celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Now that is real staying power of the Spirit.**

**2. 2<sup>nd</sup> promise: I will not leave you orphans; I will come back to you**

**a. Jesus hidden presence at the breaking of the bread; as we gather for Eucharist**

**b. When we celebrated first communion a few weeks ago, I asked the first communicants what was more important than their first communion? One answered, my second communion! Then I asked what was more important than their second communion? They answered, their third communion! Then last Sunday as I went to give the greeting of peace to one of the new communicants, little Anthony Bronhaugh said to me, “This is my fourth time to receive the Lord in the Eucharist!” Yes, the Lord will not leave us orphans. He is with us every time we gather for communion.**

**c. Tell the story of the two women cleaning up after the Holy Thursday meal. How they were brought to tears of joy how 175 people from fifteen different nations could gather to**

**joyfully celebrate a special meal the memorial of Lord's Last Supper. His Spirit I with us uniting us.**

**d. Because of the Eucharist, we are never orphans; we are never alone; Jesus remains with us.**

**3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Promise: If you keep my commandments, my Father and I will reveal Ourselves to you and come to you.**

**a. Our failure to follow Jesus' way of living is like a tumor on our body, a cataract over our eyes; our faith is obstructed and clouded. As we cleanse and clarify our lives we start to experience the presence of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit in a variety of ways. Jesus promises that We will come to you and make our home in you.**

**Three promises Jesus makes to us in today's Gospel:**

**1. I will send you the Spirit; to energize and sustain us.**

**2. Jesus' return to us in the Eucharist: (story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus: come to know him in the breaking of the bread;**

**3. Share God's life even more vibrantly by keeping the commandments just as Jesus kept his Father's commandments out of love for him.**

**We have three powerful upcoming feasts which reminds us of God's presence in our midst. In two weeks we celebrate the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost. Then we celebrate our life as adopted sons and daughters on the Feast of the Holy Trinity. And finally we celebrate our feast day, the Feast of Corpus Christi.**

**Yes, Jesus promises to be with us and to sustain us. All we need to do is to follow him and experience the fullness of life.**

*(ideas taken from Captured Fire by S. Joseph Krempa)*