

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

A grandfather takes his nervous seven-year-old grandson to church to make his first confession. He asked the grandfather what he could expect. "Confession is where you tell all the bad things you've done to the priest," he told him. The grandson looked relieved and said, "Good. I haven't done anything bad to the priest."

Dear Friends,

We are in the sixth week of Easter. We are already realizing the work of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the church and with us. It is the Holy spirit who makes us understand the divine path and guides us to follow it in our daily life.

The readings today help us understand the importance of the Holy Spirit in the early church and in our time. In the first reading, we have heard the discussion about circumcision. They came up with some resolution. The Holy Spirit helped them to be open to the Gentiles who wanted to believe in Christ. It cleared up a lot of customary things that Jews had been doing. It gives us a lesson that God never discriminates against anyone and accept everyone of us as we are.

In the Gospel, Jesus talks about three things. The promise of his in dwelling, the promise of the Holy Spirit and the gift of peace. Jesus continues to speak on the topic of love and gives his disciples a defining mandate. He speaks of love and links it with being true to his word. His life is the word.

The second promise is the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is the advocate who will teach and remind you of everything. The Holy Spirit who will remain with us, alongside us, to guide us. The disciples need not be afraid or troubled because they are never alone. The Holy Spirit, the advocate, is always with them to defend them, to intercede for them, and to comfort them. The same way he remains with us and defends us.

The third promise is the gift of peace. He said, "My peace I give you. " This peace is not an ordinary kind of peace, but one that comes from the other side of the grave. This is a peace that can not be destroyed by hatred or death. It is a peace that lives for eternity. This peace brings inner joy. Mother Teresa quotes this incident: A man came from Kalighat and went straight to the women's ward. There was a sister attending to a patient who just came in. She must have had joy on her face. This man said, "I came here empty. I go away full of God. I saw the love of God in that sister." The sister maybe never realizing that the man was looking at her. This is the peace Jesus gives us today.

God is ever faithful in his promises. He asks us to be faithful. He is concerned for us. Let us share the peace that Jesus shared with us to bring Joy to people around us. Do not be anxious. Don't be troubled. Welcome everyone with this same peace.