

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

A holy pastor of a very large parish died and went to Heaven. He was convinced that he would get the penthouse in Heaven. "If not I, then who?", he thought, not so humbly, to himself. Instead, he was given a tiny one-bedroom apartment. Disappointed and not just a little angry, the preacher asked St. Peter why he couldn't have the penthouse. St. Peter replied, "We have lots of pastors and preachers like you here in Heaven, and the conveniences in your apartment surpass everything available to the rich and famous people on earth." "Then who is in the penthouse?" the pastor demanded. "It's a lawyer," replied St. Peter. "What?! Why?!" Peter replied, "Until now, we haven't had one here!"

Dear Friends,

We are in the time of graduation and transition. People prepare farewell speeches. These speeches give hope and support and some of the accomplishments.

Today's gospel brings another farewell discourse of Jesus to his disciples. Jesus knowing the hearts of the disciples wanted to give hope before he leaves. It happened before his passion. He told them not to be afraid.

In General, God has been strengthening his people throughout scripture. I personally see that one of God's works is to make sure that we are protected or safe. When God called so many people in the Old Testament, they were all afraid, crumbled, and fearful. God told them not to be fearful. Example: Moses Exodus 3:11-12, Moses Said to God, "Who am I? that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the Israelites?", He answered, "I will be with you". Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other prophets had similar experiences of God's presence with them.

In the New Testament, Jesus tells the same to not be afraid. We read it in all the Gospels. When the angel appeared to Mary, the first thing he said was not too afraid (Luke 1: 29). When she was greatly troubled and pondering. The greeting came. There are numerous moments in the scripture and in the history of the church, when people are troubled, God gave them the same. He tells us today not to be troubled or afraid. We are worried or concerned about so many things. Jesus says not to worry as we are all worried about our next life; He promises that he will prepare a place for you and me. The place is guaranteed. It is not a place, rather it is to be understood as an experience in communion with God and Jesus and being able to share his glory.

One of the main concerns of the disciples, and us, is what will happen after this? We are guaranteed.

The second point for us today is that Jesus is the way and truth and life. You can seek God only in and through him. We sing in the Mass, "Through him, and with him, and in him, and the unity of the holy spirit glory and honors is yours." Jesus gives and clears the way for you and me. In the second reading, St. Peter mentions that Jesus is the corner stone that the builders rejected. Here, Jesus particularly makes the disciples understand the interlinked connection between the Father and himself.

Jesus points the directions to God, the Father. We will have to recognize Jesus in our Eucharist. The whole Eucharistic celebration is nothing but praising God through Jesus Christ. All parts of the Mass are directing us to praise God the Father.

So let us focus ourselves on believing in Jesus Christ in our lives.