



[Jesus said], "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth."

JOHN 14:16-17A

## Apron Strings

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**T**here are moments when we realize the baton has been passed to us, and now we must conduct the symphony of our lives. One such moment may be when both parents have died. "They" say we never fully grow up until that occurs, for from that time on we can no longer go home. I know of a daughter who received a gift from her mother when the daughter moved out on her own. Inside, the daughter discovered a pair of apron strings, a symbol of her break with home. At various times, life hands us a bountiful serving of responsibility as we commit to a vocation, or for many, become parents for the first time. On such occasions, the future may weigh heavily upon us.

This week's Gospel is a farewell speech of sorts. Given to the Twelve on the night before his passion and death, Jesus promises he will not leave us orphans and that the Spirit will be given to us to do what we must do.

There have been any number of times when life has unfolded for me into new circumstances and life roles, occasions often filled with anxiety and sometimes even fear. I usually found I could deal with such realities by asking myself what would be the worst that could happen, and if it did, could I handle it? Every time, I found myself realizing I *could* handle the worst. Importantly, the ability to do what needs doing always seems to flow from God's Spirit that is given to each of us. If our faith in God is alive in us, our spiritual apron strings are never severed. ●

### Reflect

**Has the Spirit of God ever helped you face a daunting responsibility?**

# Dear Padre,

## If the Catholic Church recognizes baptisms from other Christian denominations, why not confirmations?

Baptism signs us with an indelible mark. It defines our character and can never be repeated. A baptism is always held to be valid if a person is baptized with water using the Trinitarian formula (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1256). If a priest is unsure of the validity of a person's baptism, he would baptize the person conditionally, recognizing the earlier baptism if it happened and was valid. The minister of baptism is usually an ordained minister, but in necessity anyone can baptize, including a non-Christian, if the person intends what the Church intends.

Confirmation also leaves an indelible mark, as does holy orders, and they also cannot be repeated. What makes confirmation different from baptism is that the minister of confirmation is ordinarily the bishop because this expresses the apostolic unity of the Church (CCC 1312). If someone had been confirmed in a Church that has apostolic succession, their confirmation would be considered valid, and the person wouldn't be reconfirmed.

Most Christian churches have a common understanding of what the sacrament of baptism is, but while other churches might have communion, confirmation, and ordination, their celebration of those sacraments may not include all the requirements necessary for the Catholic Church to consider them valid. ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR

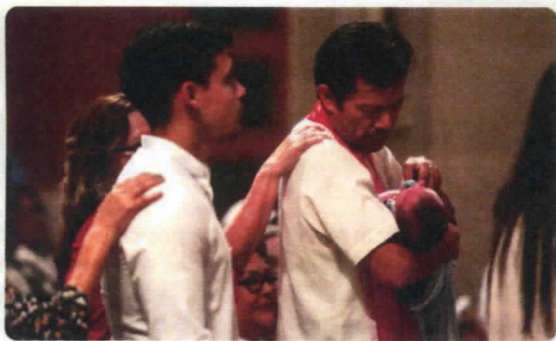
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May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21
Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Easter Weekday	Ascension
Acts 16:11-15	Acts 16:22-34	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1	Acts 18:1-8	Acts 18:9-18	Acts 18:23-28	Acts 1:1-11
Jn 15:26-16:4a	Jn 16:5-11	Jn 16:12-15	Jn 16:16-20	Jn 16:20-23	Jn 16:23b-28	Eph 1:17-23 Mt 28:16-20



### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*[The Holy Spirit] is the Gift of God; he is God himself, who helps us to be free people, people who want and know how to love, people who understand that life is a mission to proclaim the wonders that the Lord accomplishes in those who trust in him.*

REGINA CAELI, ST. PETER'S SQUARE, MAY 17, 2020

CNS PHOTO/JAMES RAMOS, TEXAS CATHOLIC HERALD/MONDAY



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