

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU EVERYTHING

Before Jesus left our world to His Father, He made some promises to His disciples. The three most important ones are that; He will come again to take us to where He is; He will be with us till the end of time, and He will send the Holy Spirit to be our Advocate who will teach us the full truth.

All three are indirectly summed up in the gospel reading. He told His disciples that whoever loves Him will keep His word, and He and the Father will come to him and make their home with him. He promised them the Holy Spirit, and He will come back to them.

The presence of the Holy Spirit was felt by the apostles when they were faced with a decision-making. Some Jews wanted the Gentiles to become Jews before being accepted as Christians. This brought confusion among the Gentiles and the Jews, and when it reached the apostles, they prayed before taking a decision. They were guided by the Holy Spirit to come to the conclusion that there was no need for them to be circumcised before becoming Christians.

In the spirit, John was also led to the mountain, and he saw the new Jerusalem. The new Jerusalem had the walls and gates with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel and the twelve apostles. This was a symbol of the old and the new coming together as one people under one God who would be their light. The readings today give us a hint of the nature of the Church, that, it is One, Holy, Catholic (universal), and Apostolic.

There were so many things Jesus taught His disciples that they did not understand till they received the Holy Spirit. After Pentecost they understood what love is, that love breaks barriers, and it goes with suffering. They understood that Christ came for everybody. The apostles did not make any decision without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. An example is the selection of the seven deacons, (Acts

6:3-6), and the selection of Paul and Barnabas. “While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work for which I have called them.’ So after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off,” (Acts 13:2-3).

The Lord Jesus wants to teach us many things through the Church. He wants to teach us about love, about suffering, about sin, about marriage, about how to live as a community of believers, and about righteousness, among other things. But very often, some take the teachings as an imposition and they are considered a burden. This happens because we do not allow the Spirit to teach us the truth about all these. We do not see them with the mind of the Spirit but with our own minds.

In fact, it is the Spirit who will teach us how to pray. He will teach us many things about our selves to know our own selves better. By the inspiration of the Spirit we will know how weak or strong we are, and what is good and bad.

Moreover, we make decisions every day about small and big things. About how many of them do we ask the Spirit of God to guide us? We think that there is no need to pray over certain things because they are not very serious or important. Do we pray over the kind of person we are going to stay with for life? Do we ask the Lord to choose the correct friend to move with? What about the subjects we are going to read in school, and the career we want to pursue in the near future? Even today, how many of us have asked for His guidance?

To be able to live in the Spirit, there is the need to keep the word of the Lord. We have to avoid sin and lead a righteous life. We should allow the Lord to make His home in us. This is the message of the Lord Jesus: “Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me,” (Rev.3:20).