

6th Sunday of Easter
May 22, 2022
“Our Limited Knowledge and Understanding”

Acts 15:1...29
Rev 21:10...23
Jn 14:23-29

My Brothers and Sisters in the Lord –

Knowledge and understanding are vital components of everyone’s life. From the time of our birth until our death, every person learns more and understands more about so many things. Thus, we grow in knowledge and appreciation for our world, for ourselves and others, and for life itself. It is difficult when we cannot understand something – because without that understanding, its meaning will, usually, escape us!

Another difficulty is to be denied the knowledge about something that we think is important for us to know. Even another difficulty is being forced to wait for the knowledge and understanding we seek and desire. The fact that we must wait might be determined by others – It might be because information is not available – It might be that evolving, unknown factors will determine the final outcome.

Consequently, so much of our human development requires waiting. We must, simply, wait for life to unfold. We must wait for the knowledge which will bring more understanding when the time is right!

This is what the disciples of Jesus must have experienced as Jesus spoke to them the night before he died. Jesus had so much to tell them. But there was so little of it that they would be able to understand in those last hours. Much of what he would have to say would be hard for them to believe or accept.

So Jesus spoke in veiled language. If they kept his word, the Father, whom they didn’t know, would love them – And, then, in some mysterious way, both the Father and Jesus would come to them and dwell within them.

Furthermore, the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, would be sent to them by the Father. This Advocate would come in the name of Jesus – It would teach them everything – It would make understandable what had escaped them.

It would help them remember what Jesus had taught.

- About their relationship with him and the Father –
- That Jesus was going away, but would be coming back –
- That the gift of his peace was not the peace of the culture, or of the world.

Jesus knew that his disciples would be plagued by doubts and fear – that they would find his Resurrection impossible to believe. Nevertheless, they would be enabled to believe – Because Jesus was predicting everything that would unfold and come to pass in the hours and days ahead!

Brothers and Sisters, we are, indeed, fortunate to live in the time after Jesus came into human history. We have the benefit of knowing all that, ultimately, took place with his Passion, death, and Resurrection. We have the words and actions of Jesus recorded in the 4 Gospel accounts – We have the nuanced ways that each of the evangelists understood and interpreted all that Jesus said and did – We have the Tradition of the Church over 21 centuries – And we have the writings and lives of the holy men and women who applied the Gospel to their own lives.

But most wonderfully of all, we have the continued presence of Jesus in his Holy Spirit. They will both be with us until the end of time. Moreover, God continues to love us – God dwells in us in the measure that we keep His word – which is the word of Jesus, himself.

So, let us never be fretful or anxious. Let us not worry about the unknown – or about what will happen in the future. We can, truly, be at peace – because the peace of God truly does surpass all human understanding!

Therefore, let us pray that we are able to wait patiently for God's plan to unfold for us and for the world.

And may we each come to know and understand all that God wishes to reveal to us in His own good time!

Amen.

May 22, 2022

Msgr. Russell G. Terra