

Fifth Sunday of Easter - A – 2020
Mass Suspended due to Coronavirus
On-Line Homily
Acts 6.1-7///1Peter 2.4-9///John 14.1-12

→One day a priest who was asked to preach a mission at a parish in Florida decided to send a postcard back to his staff at the rectory.

→Walking out of the place where he was staying, he saw a young boy on a bicycle coming towards him and so he asked the boy where the post office was.

→The boy obliged by giving him directions. The priest thanked him and then invited the boy to church that evening. He told the boy, *“if you come to church tonight, I’ll tell you the way to get to heaven.”*

→The boy answered by saying, *“sorry but I don’t think I’ll be there.”*

→Surprised the priest said, *“why not.”*

→The boy answered, *“you don’t even know your way to the post office, how are you going to get me to heaven!”*

→Today, Jesus speaks to us about the “way” to heaven and not surprisingly we are reminded that the “way” to heaven is not by a street we can walk or drive down!

→The “way” to heaven can’t be found by Google maps or with a GPS either!

→Rather as we well know, the “way” to heaven is by a person – Jesus himself – who today reminds us once again that *“he is the way, the truth and the life.”*

→Today's gospel reading contains two significant and meaningful reminders of how Jesus is the "way" to heaven for us.

→Jesus tells his listeners: --"*I am going to prepare a place for you and then I will come back and take you with me.*" In other words: *I will bring you home.*

→But then Thomas questions Jesus: "we don't know what you are talking about and *we do not know where you are going....how can we know the way?*"

→Jesus responds very powerfully by saying: "*I am the way and the truth and the life.*"

→However for the disciples, that answer is not good enough because Phillip decides to speak up saying, "*show us the Father and that will be enough for us.*"

→In other words: "show us God and we will be satisfied."

→Jesus replies by saying: "I have been with you all this time and you still do not understand...**you have seen the Father!** How can you say that do you not believe?"

→Once again, as we have seen so many times before, the disciples were not the brightest when it came to understanding the words and message of Jesus.

→Jesus offers them the "way" to eternal salvation and eternal life, yet, what they didn't realize is that **they** had an important role to play in all of this.

→Jesus today give an invitation to the **table**...and, what the disciples still don't understand is that this invitation requires that they have to bring **some thing** to the table as well!!

→And that is the meaning of this reading for you and me today!

→Through our baptism, our belief in God, our faith; we have been given **an invitation** to come to the kingdom!

→In fact, every human being ever to walk the face of the earth has been offered this invitation yet what is sad is that an increasingly amount of people don't care to answer it.

→For them it is not that important nor is it worth their time or effort.

→Yet Jesus continues to offer this same invitation today that he offered to the disciples long ago: *"I am the way and the truth and the life!"*

→So the challenge remains, not only to answer, but more so to ask *"what are we going to bring,"* to share with the family of God.

What do we have to offer in response to this invitation?

→We have already said "YES" by our baptism; by our faith; by our lives!

→Just as the disciples did, we too have said yes, but Jesus as points out –that is simply not enough; we need to offer something more in response!

→Today Jesus calls us to respond: to become his disciples, his followers, his messengers to a world that isn't, at times, all that interested or concerned in hearing His message.

→In a few short weeks we will mark the feast of Pentecost. It is a day to remember the gifts of the Spirit, and for us it hopefully might be a celebration of gathering once again to pray, sing, worship in our parish home!

→In the coming weeks, we will hear a lot about the gifts we have to bear and offer to one another.

→However, the message for today...is Jesus once again reminding us that we need to give our gifts of courage, strength, compassion and concern to those in need and to each other!

→As we have all discovered over these past few weeks, it is not enough to say I believe and leave it at that; to say I belong and not participate; to say I have faith and not practice it.

→On the contrary we have to bring something to the table; bring something **TO** the faith we profess!

→Once again the invitation is being sent, and we are being asked to respond.

→In the end, how we respond is what will make a difference, not only in the world and the lives we live, but in the dwelling place being prepared for us in God's eternal house!