

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
LET YOURSELF BE BUILT INTO A SPIRITUAL HOUSE

May 6/7, 2023

One of the most important necessities of life is housing. One has to get a roof over one's head to be safe and warm. Once someone becomes homeless, many other problems follow. It is difficult for him to have a healthy lifestyle and also, he becomes vulnerable to crime and theft.

Do you know how important you are as a Christian? Are you aware that Christ wants you to be where He is with the Father? Jesus invited Levi and Zacchaeus to follow Him, (Lk.5:27-28;19:5). Again, He said, "Come to me, all who labor and are overburdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt.11:28). His desire is that He gathers all God's children together in the kingdom. He wants you and I to experience eternal rest with Him.

The houses we live in now here on earth, will all be destroyed one day, but Jesus assures us that His Father has better ones for us. He assured His disciples that what He was telling them was the fact and so their hearts should not be troubled. The dwelling place that He was going to prepare would be a permanent and excellent one.

St. Paul also understood that, and he told the Corinthians: "We are well aware that when the tent that houses us on earth is folded up, there is a house for us from God, not made by human hands but everlasting, in the heavens" (2Cor.5:1). St. Paul makes it clear also that the body itself is the house of God; the Temple of the Holy Spirit; (1Cor.3:16-17/6:19).

Thus, in order to have a place in the house prepared by Christ, we have to build this earthly tent well and house the Holy Spirit. That was why St. Peter told the believers: "let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ". I cannot enter my house in heaven with a spot of sin.

The house is not built alone but as a community and with the help of Jesus Christ, for He is the cornerstone. He is the one to take us to occupy the heavenly dwelling place, as He said that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. So, He invites us to have faith in Him and in His Father. He wants us to obey His word so that we will not stumble. He is the Way to the Father's house and the way will lead us to life.

Each has to be used as a 'material' that was why when there was a problem among the early believers, the apostles asked the community to choose men who could support them in the distribution of goods so that they could proclaim the Good News. They realized it was not possible for them to do everything by themselves alone. That was why St. Paul said that we are like the body with many parts to play different functions, (Rom.12:4-6).

How do I live as a member of the royal priesthood? In what way do I contribute to the building of God's kingdom, and my own house which is the temple of the Holy Spirit? The will of the Father is that no one will be lost. To be with Him depends on how I play my part as a member of the chosen race and the royal priesthood.

This parish is a portion of God's people chosen to declare the wonderful deeds of God. What contributions are we making to help other parishioners have a place in the heavenly mansion? The early believers were faced with some of the problems we face today, but they managed to resolve them to bring them together as one family. How do we manage our differences? How do we tackle our common problems? Will you be happy if I am left out on that day? Even though Jesus has promised to come back to take us home, I have to prepare otherwise I will be left behind; "I tell you on that night, when two are in bed, one will be taken, the other left; when two women are grinding corn together, one will be taken, the other left"(Lk.17:34-36); why?