

(Food for thought: Gospel: John 17: 11-19)

## “A Four-fold Prayer”



In this week's Gospel reading Jesus is about to enter the last few days of his life on earth. The events of those days, His last meal with His friends, His betrayal, abuse and mockery of a trial, and His crucifixion and death provide a backdrop for the prayer He prays for His disciples.

As He prepared His disciples for the coming of the Spirit, Jesus prays in a very loving and intimate way for those to whom he is entrusting his mission. But his prayer looks far beyond these first disciples. His hunger is for faith; he wants future generations to accept him as Lord and Saviour, as the full and final

revelation of the Father's love. His thirst is for Truth... he consecrated himself for his friends, so that they may be consecrated in that Truth.

Consequently we see him praying for four things – **unity**, **joy**, **holiness** and **mission**; "Father - keep them safe, keep them united ('that they may be one'), keep them joyful ('that they may have my joy'), keep them consecrated ('sanctify them in the truth'), keep them mobilized for the mission ('so I have sent them into the world')."

As we read the Gospels and relive the mystery of Spirit in our daily lives, we must change all of the verbs from the past tense to the present. Pentecost is our rebirth in the Spirit. That original fire must burn in us. This gift must bring excitement, passion and courage to us. We must shake off complacency,

intolerance, and indifference. The Spirit must become our strength, our light, our hope, and our joy. It must become the driving force for all activity.

Wherever men and women live in the kind of peace and justice that is the fruit of unity and truth, that miracle then proclaims the presence of God.



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