



Church of the Holy Family
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Message for the 5th Sunday of Easter, Year A, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family Church

This Sunday's Gospel text (Jn 14:1-12) points out that we must trust Jesus our Risen Lord for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Indeed, our leaders and authorities need lots of guidance and wisdom from God as they are poised to prepare the exit strategies from the 'Circuit Breaker Measures' notwithstanding unforeseen circumstances.

It is interesting to note that Jn 14 is right after the Washing of Feet and the Last Supper (Jn 13). The apostles were shocked and confused when they experienced these actions as these had never happened before. It was in these settings that Jesus tells them to 'Trust in God still and trust in me' (Jn 14:1b).

It was the eve of His own Passover but we find Him taking the trouble to take away fears from his friends' troubled hearts. Just hours before His own arrest, humiliation, torture, unjust trial and execution, He Himself trust in the power and love of the Father who keeps on calling each one of us 'out of darkness into his wonderful light' (2nd Reading; 1Pt 2:9).

Not only has He revealed Himself as the Way to the Father, He wants to accompany us to the Father for it only through Him, our Gate that we enter our Father's house which has many rooms specially prepared for us. No worries about overcrowding and issues about safe-distancing.

He has poured out on us the Spirit of Truth which we can follow with full trust and confidence. In the 1st Reading, the early Church saw the need for a special group of Church Ministers, the Deacons, and the Holy Spirit provided the Church much needed wisdom to inaugurate this Ministry. These days, we need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to impart charisms and gifts to us so as to help us figure out fresh directions and newness of purpose as we strive to outrun the COVID-19 virus.

We, the living stones of House of God must remain anchored firmly on the Corner Stone for He passes to us the key to unlock Life-giving support as we put on standby plans to re-connect with those who are lost and re-ignite relationships and friendship with those we have not seen for quite a while. Also, just as we have drawn sustenance from our own respective mothers while we were still in their wombs, let us remember them in our prayers on the occasion of Mothers' Day this weekend.

10th May is the feast day of St John of Avila who was declared a Doctor of the Church in 2010. Moreover, it is also the feast day of the biblical Job the Patriarch, a master of trust in God's will and plan of salvation. 11th May marks the feast day of St Walter while 12th May is the feast day of Neureus and Achilleus; and St Pancras of Rome.

13th May commemorates Our Lady of Fatima and it is the feast day of St Agnes of Poitiers. 14th May is the Feast of St Matthias the Apostle and feast day of Pope St Pascal I. 15th May is the feast day of St Isidore the Farmer while 16th May marked the feast day of Blessed Simon Stock and St Brendan who is the Patron Saint of Sailors.

Let us sail through this Pandemic safely relying on the assurance given by the Response of today 'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you' (Ps 32:22). Alleluia!

Fr Stanislaus PANG