

May 20-21, 2017

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-17

First Peter 3:15-18

John 14:15-21

Throughout the Diocese assorted parishes are planning assorted events, farewells for the priests/pastors who are departing from them and preparing to welcome the new ones freshly assigned. Always a time of upheaval, parishioners find out that priests are not all the same and priests discover that different parishes have been shaped and formed with different attitudes and spiritualities. A time of both enrichment and excitement for many, these are also days of disturbance and disillusionment for a few. With the approach of next week's celebration of Ascension, Jesus' earthly tenure is coming to an end...BUT not before he offers the consolation of sending ANOTHER advocate...whom we know to be the Holy Spirit given the Church at Pentecost. The early, early, early community of disciples had already had their world rocked by the events of Good Friday and Easter morning, now their entire lives, and the lives of their families were about to be upended. Witnessing to the divinity of Jesus put a bull's eye on the disciple's chests....and with them, their families too. Rocking the boat and encouraging people to look at the world differently than how they became accustomed to viewing it was dangerous stuff (still is...look at all the internet trolls that chase after anyone who does not agree with their strident views on everything from politics to religion.) In our day and age, having celebrated and reflected upon Easter and now awaiting Ascension and Pentecost, a wise disciple will hold fast to the truth that developing a relationship with Jesus will necessitate CONTINUAL CHANGE and becoming comfortable with letting God lead our lives. Mystery, rather than certainty, must become a key concept and seeking our treasure, success and future will be defined in entirely different ways than how our cultural world portrays success. These are prudent days in which to ask ourselves how invested we are in Jesus? Enough to let our lives be unsettled and controlled by him? Or are we 'wearing' the Cross of Jesus and his invitation to discipleship like a piece of costume jewelry that must always remain exactly as it looked when we bought it?

Having recovered from your brunches and dinners of Mother's Day last weekend, thank you for sharing this Spring weekend with our Santa Clara family. AT 12 Noon today we welcome another precious hatch of our sons and daughters to the Eucharistic Table for the first time...congratulations to each and every one of you! This weekend we also accept a Second Special collection: PARISHES IN COLLABORATION, which used to be called, Parishes in Need. Essentially it is to provide aid to our neighbor parishes right here in Orange County to assist them in completing or acquiring some crucial equipment or staff for their parish. Your generosity is appreciated. **Next Saturday and Sunday, Memorial Weekend, after all the Masses we will host special receptions on behalf of Seminarian Daniel who will soon be leaving us to continue his Seminary studies.** You are invited to take some time to wish him well and thank him for his service among us. As you embrace all the delights and duties of the season please know that you are loved. FKB