**6th Sunday of Easter, Cycle. C. 2025**

“Crisis” is a word that is in the news a lot these days. There is **political crisis, energy crisis, economic crisis, international crisis, personal crisis and medical crisis**. In **Todays’ Gospel Reading** from the Last Supper, Jesus is preparing his disciples for the crisis of His Passion and then His return to the Father. It is called the “**Farewell Addre**ss” at which Jesus is preparing, equipping His disciples for the crisis of His departure. He also knew at the Last Supper that His Church would be facing crises in every generation.

We see one of those crises in **Today’s First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles** as the early Church confronts a decision on how to deal with Gentiles, that is, non-Jewish converts into the Church **and what to require of them to keep peace and unity between Jewish Christians and Gentile Chri**stians. It was resolved at the **Council of Jerusa**lem by the Apostles with their empowerment of the Holy Spirit. There would be many more crises that the Church will face until that moment **pictured in the Book of Revelation** when final peace will come and there will be no more darkness, no more battle and God’s victory will be complete. There, we find a **glimpse of New Jerusalem replacing the Temple with the eternal Tem**ple where the unifying love reigns.

**In the** Gospel, Jesus explains three tools to help His disciples handle the crisis: **His Word, His Spirit and His peace.**

First, He gives His word. Jesus says, “Anyone ***who loves me will be true to His word”.*** For us, Catholics, we find that word in Scripture and Tradition. By keeping that word, by following it, we are secure in Christ. The Scripture contains the unchanging rock of God’s truth. God’s word lifts our vision beyond the **immediate present to the larger drama of our** life. Cultural styles may change but **nobody can ever destroy the truth.** People may deny it but not destroy it. People may ignore it but they can’t eliminate it. “***The body they may kill, but God’s truth abides still***”. The word of Christ is the abiding rock of truth for any crisis and its’ there for any one of us.

**The Second tool or piece of equipment Christ gave us to face any crisis is the gift of the Holy Spirit**. Jesus says, **“*The Advocate, whom the Father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything”****.* In Johns’ Gospel Jesus declares that he and the father will come to us and **dwell within us and make His home in** us. God wants a **Tabernacle within e**ach one of us, a safe place for God to dwell. We don’t have to hunt for God, like somebody in the series of **“search**” programs on the Discovery channel. He dwells inside us and in any crisis, we can know that the Holy Spirit is with us.

**The Holy Spirit convinces us of the right when we do what is right, convicts us of wrong when we do wrong, and reminds us of Christs’ truth when we need reminding. The Holy Spirit points us to what is morally right. The Holy Spirit is like a moral radar & spiritual sonar for us.**

The Third Skill or the piece of equipment Jesus gives besides His word and His Holy spirit is His Peace. ***“My peace is my gift to you”…not as the world gives peace***” The world defines the peace as the absence of conflict. But that kind of peace can be destroyed by a single terrorist, by a single bullet or bomb or by one random act. It does not last. Popular culture says that to find peace we must go someplace like Bahamas or ingest something like a sedative or playing golf or taking a bubble bath. These lead only temporary distraction from our problems but not to resolution. Jesus’ peace is different because it is a peace on the inside. “***Peace has been called “the tranquility of order”,*** a magnificent definition. The peace that Christ gives is the tranquility of order within, no matter what is happening outside. That is the peace the world cannot give us. This peace is there for every one of us.

**The tools from Jesus Christ to deal with any crisis situation consists of His word for our mind, His Holy Spirit for our heart and will, and His peace for our soul.**  They are Christs’ lasting gifts to each one of us wherever we are.