

## Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

### FIRST READING

*Acts 8:5-8,14-17*

Philip went down to the city of Samaria  
and proclaimed the Christ to them.  
With one accord, the crowds paid attention to what was said by Philip  
when they heard it and saw the signs he was doing.  
For unclean spirits, crying out in a loud voice,  
came out of many possessed people,  
and many paralyzed or crippled people were cured.  
There was great joy in that city.  
Now when the apostles in Jerusalem  
heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God,  
they sent them Peter and John,  
who went down and prayed for them,  
that they might receive the Holy Spirit,  
for it had not yet fallen upon any of them;  
they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.  
Then they laid hands on them  
and they received the Holy Spirit.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 66:1-3,4-5,6-7,16,20*

**R Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Shout joyfully to God, all the earth,  
sing praise to the glory of his name;  
proclaim his glorious praise.  
Say to God, "How tremendous are your deeds!"

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

"Let all on earth worship and sing praise to you,  
sing praise to your name!"  
Come and see the works of God,  
his tremendous deeds among the children of Adam.

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

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He has changed the sea into dry land;  
through the river they passed on foot;  
therefore let us rejoice in him.

He rules by his might forever.

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

Hear now, all you who fear God, while I declare  
what he has done for me.

Blessed be God who refused me not  
my prayer or his kindness!

**R. Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

## **SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 3:15-18**

Beloved:

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.

Always be ready to give an explanation  
to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope,  
but do it with gentleness and reverence,  
keeping your conscience clear,  
so that, when you are maligned,  
those who defame your good conduct in Christ  
may themselves be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good,  
if that be the will of God, than for doing evil.

For Christ also suffered for sins once,  
the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous,  
that he might lead you to God.

Put to death in the flesh,  
he was brought to life in the Spirit.

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## **GOSPEL**

**John 14:15-21**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

And I will ask the Father,

and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always,  
the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept,  
because it neither sees nor knows him.

But you know him, because he remains with you,  
and will be in you.

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

In a little while the world will no longer see me,  
but you will see me, because I live and you will live.

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father  
and you are in me and I in you.

Whoever has my commandments and observes them  
is the one who loves me.

And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

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## Discussion for Readings - Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year A

The Easter season is beginning to turn, as we're being drawn toward its fulfillment in the great feast of Pentecost. In the First Reading, where Peter and John laid hands on those baptized by Philip, and they received the Holy Spirit - provides an early example of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

In the Second Reading, Peter writes: "Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who defame your good conduct in Christ may themselves be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be the will of God, than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God."

1. Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will remain with His followers. The Spirit continues to guide the Church and help believers live the teachings of Jesus. A man who is disconnected from prayer is a someone who is disconnected from their source. What are some *practical habits* that keep a man who is leading his family spiritually connected — so his decisions flow from the Spirit of truth, not just his own instincts?
2. "Always be ready to give an explanation for the hope that is in you." This is the foundation of Catholic apologetics — and it is also a leadership mandate. You should be able to articulate *why* you believe what you believe and *why* you are moving in the direction you are. Can you give a reason for the hope that drives your faith? What is it grounded in?
3. Peter says it is better to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. We often face pressure to compromise to avoid conflict. How does Christ's example — "the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous" — give you the strength to suffer for doing good?
4. Has there been a moment recently where someone maligned (vilified) you for your faith? Did you respond with gentleness?

### Closing Reflection

Jesus said: *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments"* — and then He promised the Advocate. The sequence matters: love first, obedience second, the Spirit third. So the deeper question is not "how do I lead better?" but rather:

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*Am I leading from a place of genuine love for Christ — or am I leading from ambition, habit, or obligation? And if the Spirit of Truth lives in me, why do I so often make decisions as though He doesn't?*

What are you going to do now, given what you've heard and discussed tonight? How are you going to take this discussion to become the cornerstone for our families?

### **Closing Prayer**

*Lord Jesus, You promised us an Advocate — the Spirit of Truth — to be with us always. May we lead our families and communities not from pride or fear, but from love for You and obedience to Your word. Give us the courage of Philip, the gentleness of Peter, and the indwelling of Your Spirit. Make us leaders who point not to ourselves, but always to You. Amen.*

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