

SUNDAY HOMILY – 6TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EASTER

John 14:15-21

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Dear and Loving Friends

Today's Gospel Reading continues the Farewell Discourse of Jesus, recorded by St. John. This reading is ideally situated in the Liturgical Year to anticipate the coming feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. Today's first and second readings were chosen to help us prepare for the soon-to-be-celebrated feast of Pentecost. They show us how the Spirit worked in the everyday activities of Jesus' first followers. In the second reading, Peter shows us the God-fearing lives the Holy Spirit makes it possible for us believers to live in the midst of opposition and persecution. Today's Gospel, taken from the "Last Supper Discourse," describes the gift Jesus will ask the Father to send, the Holy Spirit, Who will live as the *Paraclete*, the Divine Advocate and Counselor, in those who obey Jesus' commandments, especially the commandment of love. In Hebrew, the word for spirit is *ruach* in Greek, *pneuma*, in Latin, *spiritus* - all of which suggest breathing the Paraclete – the Advocate, Comforter, Helper or Counselor: The Greek word used in John's Gospel for this Helper is *Parakletos*. For the Greeks, the word *parakletos* meant a lawyer, a legal assistant, a courtroom advocate. Jesus is telling us that the Holy Spirit is our Advocate Who speaks up for us when we're accused, judged, or wrongly condemned, and our Witness Who testifies in our

behalf. *Parakletos* can also refer to a person who comforts, counsels or strengthens us in time of need. The Holy Spirit gives us Life, stands by us, defends us, strengthens us, and consoles us. Jesus was the first Paraclete sent by the Father. God, the Holy Spirit, helps us to see the truth about ourselves, to discern the blocks that inhibit our growth and to allow Him to transform us. 2) Like the Good counselor He is, the Spirit enables us to become stronger. The Holy Spirit comes to our aid and gives us the strength to make difficult and painful decisions. 3) The Holy Spirit actually lives in us, and we hear the voice of the Spirit, counseling and guiding us in the way of truth. Let us open our minds and hearts to hear Him and to obey His promptings by praying to the Holy Spirit. Even in our lockdown periods believe strongly that there is an advocate a comforter for us . The Holy spirit who is the powerful person send by Jesus is with us. He will support and guide us. Amen