

Sunday (May 21)

**The Counsellor will be with you for ever**

**Reading 1: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

**Reading 2: 1 Pt 3:15 -18**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66: 1-7, 16, 20**

**Gospel : John 14: 15 – 21**

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**Gospel Reading:** John 14: 15 – 21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

**Meditation:** What makes us both fully human and truly like God? Is it not unconditional love which is unselfish, undying, and wholly directed to the good of others? The love of God unites us in an unbreakable bond of fidelity, friendship, and community with others. Jesus loved his own until the very end of his passion and death on the cross.

***The nature of love***

From the very beginning of creation God said: *it is not good that man should be alone* (Genesis 2:18). We were created in love for love - to be a community of loving persons, just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are inseparably united in a community of unbreakable love. John Henry Newman said: *We love because it is our nature to love, and it is our nature because God the Holy Spirit has made it our nature.* Jesus speaks to his disciples of the inseparable bond of love between himself and the Father, and of their love for humankind. In Jesus we see the fullness of God's love and how God How do we know that God truly loves each one of us? In the cross we see the proof of God's love for each of us and the incredible price God was willing to pay to redeem us from slavery to sin, death, and Satan. Jesus gave up his life that we might have life - abundant, everlasting life with God - a life of love and unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever. 's love is directed to our well-being. *In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might have life through him .*

***Knowing God's love***

How do we know that God truly loves each one of us? In the cross we see the proof of God's love for each of us and the incredible price God was willing to pay to redeem us from slavery to sin, death, and Satan. Jesus gave up his life that we might have life - abundant, everlasting life with God - a life of love and unity with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever.

Through the cross Jesus opened a new way of relationship for us as the adopted sons and daughters of God - his beloved children (Romans 8:14-17). Jesus calls his disciples to walk in his way of love through obedience to the will of the Father. True love is more than sentiment, emotion, or good intention. As important as these may be they are not the proof of sincere love. True love for God is expressed in obedience and obedience is expressed in love.

***Jesus' best gift for us*** Jesus promised to give his followers the best of gifts, the Holy Spirit as their Counselor and Helper. How does the Holy Spirit help us as the counselor? *Counselor* is a legal term for one who defends someone against an adversary and who guides that person during the ordeal of trial. The Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Helper who guides and strengthens us and brings us safely through the challenges and adversities we must face in this life. The Holy Spirit is also the Giver of life - the abundant life which comes from God and which sustains us forever. The Holy Spirit also guides us in the way of truth, wisdom, and goodness. We can never stop learning because the Spirit leads us more and more into the knowledge of God's love, truth, and goodness. Jesus also promised his followers the gift of peace. Peace is more than the absence of conflict or trouble. Peace includes everything which makes for our highest good. Trust in God, faith in his promises, and obedience to his word lead us to peace and security in God's presence. That is why a Christian need not fear or be troubled by anything. The love of Christ brings immeasurable joy and consolation even in the midst of our trials and suffering. Paul the Apostle states, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" .Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with the knowledge of Christ's immense love and with his gift of peace.

Question for Community Faith Sharing:

1. ***Have you ever felt the Holy Spirit working in your life or in the people around you to reach you and others?***
2. ***Share a time when you experience the presence of Holy Spirit.***
3. ***How can you show that you love God and that you are a follower of Christ?***

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"Lord Jesus, you alone are my treasure and the Joy of my Heart. May there be nothing in this world that holds me back from giving you my all – you are my all in all, my life and joy now and forever"