

## HOMILY — 6 SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

*Psalm 66 R. Make a joy-ful noise to God, all the earth!*

*1 Peter 3:15-18*

*John 14:15-21*

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### 1: Introduction

Last Sunday, Father Roger's homily was based on Jesus' Assertion and he, and only he was "*the way, the truth and the life,*" and to know him was to know the father too.

Then Jesus *emphasized* to His apostles... "*From now on you do know Him and have seen Him,*" which prompted Phillip to ask Jesus... "*Lord show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied.*" Jesus, it seemed, was somewhat taken back by Phillips lack of faith, and understanding and said to him... "*Have I been with you all this time Phillip and you still do not know me? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father; so how can you say... 'Show us the Father?' Do you not (believe) that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?... You (must) believe me when I say that I am in the Father and The Father is in me.*"

This was an important command... "*You must believe*" ... because what Jesus was about to reveal next was even more profound than the previous truth... "*That I am in the Father and the Father is in me*" which brings us to today's Gospel, a narrative continuation of last week.

### 2: The Advocate

...What comes next is even more profound...

Jesus goes on to say: "*I will ask the Father and He will give you another advocate to be with you forever... the spirit of truth. You will know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. On that day (Pentecost) you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me and I in you.*"

Wow!!... This revelation is a cause for great joy and thanksgiving.

The Holy spirit actually dwells within us... we become living temples of the living God... and if the Holy Spirit dwells within us, then so does the Father and the Son, because they are inseparable... they are three persons in one God.

Now we begin, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to comprehend the purpose and meaning of our being; That is to share in God's blessed life, to share in His divinity and to become His adopted children through our Lord Jesus Christ,... and it begins now with our baptism.

The Catholic Catechism states that this was accomplished when in the fulness of time, God sent His Son as a redeemer and saviour. In his son, and through Him, He invites men (*free will*) to *become* in the Holy Spirit His adopted children, thus heirs of His blessed life. (CCC1).

### **3: The Inner World**

I bring your attention to the word “*become*”..... but before we delve into that, let us first examine the sin of Adam and Eve.

The temptation that Satan had put before them, was if they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil (*forbidden by God on the pain of death*) that they would become like gods... which means control... control of their own destiny, control of their own lives, control of their own morality, ect.

In the physical world the result of this sin is very apparent... the lust for power, greed, self-will manifested in numerous ways. What is not so apparent is the inner workings of our minds (*the heart*) whereby we have all created our own personal worlds and where we have placed ourselves at the centre... playing God.

As Jesus said: “*For from the heart comes evil; fornication, theft, perjury, slander.*”

In the book A.A., they liken this inner world to an actor.

*Each person is like an actor who wants to run the whole show; he is forever trying to arrange the lights, the ballet, the scenery, and the rest of the players in his own way.*

*If his arrangements would only stay put, if only people would do as he asked, the show would be great. Everybody, including himself, would be pleased. Life would be wonderful.*

*In trying to make these arrangements our actor may sometimes be quite virtuous. He may be kind, considerate, patient, generous; even modest and self-effacing.*

*On the other hand, he may be mean, egotistical, selfish, and dishonest. But, as with most humans, he is more likely to have varied traits.*

*What usually happens? The show doesn't come off very well. He begins to think life doesn't treat him right. He decides to exert himself more. He becomes on the next occasion, still more demanding or gracious, as the case maybe. Still the play does not suit him. Admitting he may be somewhat at fault; he is sure that the people are more to blame.*

*He becomes angry, indignant, self-pitying. What is his basic trouble? Is he not really a self-seeker even when trying to be kind? Is he not a victim of the delusion that he can wrest satisfaction and happiness out of this world if he only manages well? Is it not evident to all the rest of the players that these are the things he wants? And do not his*

*actions make each of them wish to retaliate, snatching all they can get out of the show? Is he not, even in his best moments a producer of confusion rather than harmony? Our actor as we can see, is self-centered and ego-centered (Alcohol Anonymous P. 60-61).*

This commentary is a great example of this inner world that we have created whereby we play God.

Returning to the word “*become*” in the Holy Spirit... and if we are honest with ourselves, we can see that the dismantling of our inner world is not going to happen instantly... it is a gradual process,... it is a becoming.

The process involves our free will, honesty, humility (*admitting we are powerless to change on our own terms and effort*) through prayer, the scriptures, and most importantly, submitting our wills over to the Holy Spirit that he may sanctify us.

#### **4 Conclusion:**

It is the Holy Spirit who will teach us everything, remind us all that Christ said to us and bears witness to him.

It is the Holy Spirit who will lead us to all truth and glorify Christ. It is the Holy Spirit who will prove to the world (*inner world*) how wrong it was about sin, righteousness, and judgement.

It is the Holy Spirit who will sanctify us and prepare us for the great wedding feast at the end of time when we will be wedded to God and our sharing in His divinity becomes eternal.

Until that day, let us constantly pray...

*Veni Sanctos Spiritus!*

*Come Holy Spirit.*

Deacon Leo Farley