

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 21-22, 2022**

Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 57)**

Jn 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him.
Whoever does not love me does not keep my words;
yet the word you hear is not mine
but that of the Father who sent me.

“I have told you this while I am with you.
The Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all that I told you.
Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
Not as the world gives do I give it to you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me tell you,
‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’
If you loved me,
you would rejoice that I am going to the Father;
for the Father is greater than I.
And now I have told you this before it happens,
so that when it happens you may believe.”

**Intercession**

For our Annual Diocesan Appeal, that trusting more fully in the Holy Spirit, we might keep Christ’s word by supporting His Church.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Jesus lays out quite a challenge in today’s Gospel. If you truly love Him, you’ll keep His word. But of course, the word of Jesus, his teaching, is so challenging! And we are so weak, fickle and forgetful. How can we be expected to keep His word on our own? It seems like an impossible task.

And in a way it is. But thankfully, we’re not asked to keep Christ’s word all by ourselves. As Jesus says, He will send “the Advocate,” the Holy Spirit, whom “will everything and remind you of all that I told you.” In other words, Christ not only gives the task, but He also gives the means for accomplishing it—His very own Spirit, sent by the Father in Christ’s name.

Do we rely upon the Spirit in our daily lives, especially in those difficult circumstances when it becomes basically impossible for us to keep Christ’s word on our own? There’s really no other way! Consider one scenario: supporting our local Church by contributing to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. We know God asks us to support His Church, which sometimes may be hard to do. But, how does it change when we ask for His help, through the Holy Spirit? There’s only one way to find out: ask the Holy Spirit for help seeing how God is calling you to support the Church, and then ask Him for the strength to follow through.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

The Holy Spirit enables us to keep Christ’s word, which encourages us to support the Church. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and make your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal today.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Person kneeling down before a cross

Copy: The Holy Spirit enables us to keep Christ’s word, which encourages each of us to support the Church. Ask for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, and make your contribution to the Annual Diocesan Appeal today!