

**The 6th Sunday of Easter - Year A – 5/10/2026 – Msgr. Peter Quang Nguyen**

**First Reading – Acts 8:5-8, 14-17:** Philip goes to Samaria and preaches the word of God to the people, performing many miraculous signs and healings, which resulted in many people believing and being baptized. Peter and John arrive in Samaria and prayed for the new believers, laying their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 66:** A psalm of praise to God, encouraging all people to shout joyfully, sing praises, and proclaim His glorious deeds. The psalmist recounts God’s great works, including changing the sea into dry land and ruling by His might forever, and invites all who fear God to declare His goodness.

**Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:15-18:** Peter instructs believers to always be ready to give a defense of their faith with gentleness and respect, even in the face of persecution. He then reminds them of the example of Christ, who suffered and died for our sins, but was raised to life by the power of God.

**Gospel – John 14:15-21:** Jesus promises his disciples that if they love Him, they will keep His commandments, and He will ask the Father to send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, to be with them forever. He also promises that He will come to them and reveal Himself to them, and whoever loves Him and keeps His word will be loved by the Father, and they will dwell with Him.

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“THE ADVOCATE WILL COME TO YOU”

Today’s Gospel reading serves as a word of consolation from Jesus to His disciples as He prepares to depart from this world and return to the Father. Jesus’ consolation is not merely a word of encouragement or upliftment, but a firm promise: He will ask the Father to grant the disciples an Advocate—the Holy Spirit—who is the Spirit of Truth, and who will come to dwell with them, be alongside them, and reside within them.

Since ancient times, in courts of law, defendants have always stood in need of an “advocate.” The role of this advocate was to assist the defendant in responding to charges, presenting a defense, refuting accusations, and—if necessary—even using their own resources to secure the defendant’s release.

As they went forth to proclaim the Gospel and bear witness to Jesus Christ, the disciples were constantly compelled to face the tribunals of the world; they were persecuted, accused, tortured, imprisoned, and even put to death. Jesus foresaw all of this—just as He Himself would be brought before the world’s courts, subjected to slander, and executed—and so He promised to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon His disciples. The role of the Advocate is to bestow upon the disciples wisdom, understanding, insight, counsel, and courage, enabling them to bear witness to Jesus before the tribunals of the world—just as Jesus Himself affirmed in the Synoptic Gospels: “When you are brought before courts, do not worry about what to say, for the Spirit Himself will speak within you.”

And this truth was indeed verified from the very day of Pentecost; after being filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus' disciples were completely transformed. No longer slow of understanding or timid and fearful, they became clear-minded and wise, dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to proclaiming the Gospel with eloquence and courage—even at the cost of shedding their own blood.

The Advocate grants the gift of intellect, enabling the disciples to comprehend all the profound mysteries of God—those foretold and fulfilled in Sacred Scripture—and to respond with wisdom to every inquiry posed by the world, while recalling all that Jesus had previously spoken to them. The Advocate bestows strength and piety, empowering the disciples to choose God alone, to bear courageous witness to Him before all nations, and to traverse mountains and streams to proclaim the Good News.

The Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of Truth”—that is, the Spirit of God—the Spirit who imparts truth and who is, in fact, Truth itself. He assists the disciples in remaining steadfast within the truth that Jesus imparted to them, and protects them from false teachers and erroneous choices. Through the enlightening grace of the Holy Spirit, the disciples bear witness to the Truth—bearing witness to Jesus as the fullness of Truth—and demonstrate to the world where it has gone astray.

It is solely through the Holy Spirit that Christ's disciples are preserved from ever deviating from the truth. In summary, thanks to the Holy Spirit—our Advocate—we, the disciples of Christ and individual believers, are abundantly endowed with seven holy gifts (commonly known as the seven gifts of the Spirit): *Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord*. These gifts enable us to fulfill our mission of bearing witness to the Lord in the world, without fear that any power could ever separate us from our love for God, our Lord.

*O Lord, send forth Your Spirit into our hearts; renew our hearts and minds, and renew the face of the earth. Amen.*