



~ Our Pastor's
Message ~

Greetings!

Here we are celebrating the fifth Sunday of

Easter, the Resurrection is with us, and the disciples begin to expand their ministry. What does this mean for us today? Our ministry has seemingly taken a downturn, many of us feel useless or angry. We want to say that this whole Corona Virus thing is an overblown mess, just a flu like we get every flu season. Yet we are fearful for our health, our families, our job, and our future - and our better sense tells us our reaction is not overblown.

In Chapter 5, verse 36, of Mark's Gospel, Jesus tells us, "fear is useless, what we need is faith." I think that is certainly an appropriate response to all the feelings (fear, anger, despair) that we may be experiencing during this strange time. Faith that we will get through this, faith that the world scientists all collaborating together will find a vaccine that will work to protect us from this virus. Faith that God is working in and among us to bring about God's victory, a victory that envisions a more compassionate world coming from the sacred heart of Jesus. A vision in which people grow in their care for the poor and suffering of this world, a vision which recognizes our co-creating role with God to care for each other. Of course, all things created by God, who give us life, includes this beautiful world we call home and that we need to take care of as well.

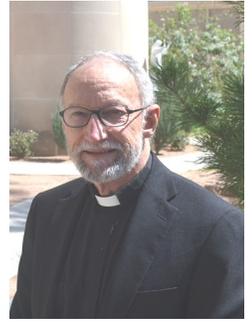
In another article I read recently, our reactions to this shutdown and "sheltering in place" is a loss of the "roles" we normally have in life: caregiver, breadwinner, worker, friend, student— parent, spouse, child, sibling; the roles we have at church: lector, minister of the eucharist, or minister of hospitality or music. Many of the roles that have defined us are now taken away, leading us to feel frustrated and insecure. Let us think again about Jesus' words and look beyond our fear to our faith. We can be confident that we will return to a new normal with our roles more important than before. Hopefully, we will develop more wisdom and understanding about the oneness of our world and of our relatedness to brothers and sisters everywhere. So as Christians of faith,

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let us take on the role of being a bearer of hope in this time of despair. Let us serve as Jesus served and died to give us hope for life everlasting, remembering that God is good all the time, all the time God is good. AMEN.

Let us all stay safe in His love and may all mothers know the glory and grace of God.

Warren J. Broussard SJ
Fr. Warren J. Broussard, SJ, Pastor



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AND FINANCES

If you would like to know more about our parish's finances, now you can find that information on our website, ICCABQ.ORG. You can also make a one-time -only or recurring donations.

Once you are on the website. From a drop down menu, GIVING, STEWARDSHIP, FINANCES, you will have four options to check out:

1. Online Giving;
2. Planned Giving;
3. Stewardship Report Weekly (collection information); and
4. Annual Report.

If you have questions, contact Comptroller Kimberly Jarnagin at KJarnagin@iccabq.org.



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SUNDAY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS
5th Sunday of Easter ~ May 10 ~

First Reading: *Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-7*

The early Christian community chooses seven people to serve at table so that the Twelve can devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19*

The Lord is merciful toward those who trust in him.

Second Reading: *1 Peter 2: 4-9*; Those who have faith are chosen in Christ to be a holy priesthood.

Gospel Reading: John 14: 1-12; Jesus tells his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life."

Background on the Gospel Reading: The readings for the last few Sundays have been about the Resurrection, but today's Gospel takes us back in time to an event in Jesus' life before his Passion. Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to prepare a place for them in his Father's house. He promises that where he is going, his disciples will be able to follow. Thomas, who will later doubt the disciples' reports that they have seen the Risen Lord, contradicts Jesus by saying that the disciples don't know where Jesus is going or how to get there. Jesus explains that he himself is the way, the truth, and the life. In knowing and loving Jesus, the disciples now love God the Father.

Philip then makes a request that challenges Jesus' words. Philip wants Jesus to show the Father to the disciples. Recall that Jesus has just told his disciples, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." As a good teacher, Jesus responds to Philip by repeating and elaborating on what he has just told the disciples: they have seen and known Jesus, so they have seen and known the Father. Then Jesus offers another reassurance about his departure: because of faith in God and in Jesus, the disciples will do the work that Jesus has done and more.

The connection between Jesus and his Father, between Jesus' work and the work of the Father, is made clear in today's Gospel. Jesus is in the Father, and God the Father is in Jesus. As God spoke his name to Moses, "I am," so too Jesus speaks his name to his disciples: "I am the way and the truth and the life."

The revelation of the Trinity is completed in the passage that follows today's reading, and it is the Gospel for next Sunday. Because Jesus goes away, the Father will send in Jesus' name the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will continue the work of the Father and of Jesus.



FAMILY CONNECTION FROM LOYOLA PRESS
The 5th Sunday of Easter ~ May 10 ~

Members of the same family often bear close resemblances to one another. Sometimes physical resemblances are shared within a family, but often the similarities are behavioral characteristics and mannerisms. We hear this observation affirmed through a number of common phrases: "He's a chip off the old block" or "She's her mother's daughter." Today's Gospel points to a mystery of faith that might be examined in light of these familial relationships. In Jesus we see and know the Father. Likewise, the Father is known through the life and work of the Son, Jesus.

Talk together as a family about whether people outside of your family recognize common traits of your family. Are there physical resemblances that people recognize and so know each individual as a member of your family? Are there mannerisms that are shared by members of your family? What are some common interests and work that people might associate with your family? As you read today's Gospel, John 14:1-12, keep in mind that members of the same family share many characteristics, even though each person in the family is an individual. What does Jesus tell his disciples about his relationship with the Father? The relationship between the Father and Jesus is so close that Jesus says that those who have seen and known Jesus have also seen and known the Father. Jesus promises his disciples that because of their faith in him and in the Father, they too will be able to do the work of the Father as Jesus did. End your discussion by praying together that others will recognize in your family the work of the Father. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.



BUILD A STRONG CORE

4 WAYS TO STRENGTHEN

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

A recent flyer from the YMCA read “Build a strong core.” They were offering training designed to strengthen the body’s trunk muscles in order to provide power, protection, and flexibility when engaging in other activities, sports, and training.

There seems to be a parallel between the wisdom of strengthening one’s physical core and tending to one’s spiritual core. If you strengthen the core, the rest of your body—or soul—will be strengthened as well. But just as many people resist the YMCA’s invitation to join their new class, many resist taking steps to strengthen their spiritual lives. According to Dr. Jane Regan, this resistance stems from the belief that taking these steps will entail adding yet one more task or program to an already jam-packed daily schedule.

Regan, renowned author and professor of religious education at Boston College, suggests that we imagine a wheel with many spokes radiating out from the hub. If you see yourself as the hub, with the demands of your life as the spokes radiating outward, then the invitation to work on your spirituality becomes one more spoke on an already crowded wheel.

But if you put God at the core, as the hub of your life, you’re not adding yet another spoke. Instead, your relationship with God flows through everything else you do every day, all day. How can you move God from being a peripheral spoke to the hub of your life? Here are a few suggestions that can help you strengthen your core relationship with God.

1. Start your day by offering it all to God.
Imagine all the spokes of your life—all the people, responsibilities, commitments, and interests that make up your day—and envision them all illuminated by the presence of God at your core.
2. Realize that God invites you to be a co-creator.
We humans are called upon to use our God-given creativity to help bring about God’s reign. In the Our Father we say “thy Kingdom come, thy will be done.” This is our daily commitment to use our talents, our strengths, our imagination, our skills—everything we have, in fact—to serve the Kingdom of God.

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3. Ask for God’s help with all the spokes of your life.
Try to see God’s action and God’s will in every commitment, interest, and responsibility that you have. This might include the spiritual practice of a daily *Examen* in which you look to find the movement of God in your day and listen for what God might be calling you to next.
4. Enjoy the benefits of having a strong core.
With God at the hub of your life, you benefit from having power, protection, and agility for everything that you are called upon to do. You also have direction and guidance for the many decisions you face each day.

GOD IS IN THE OVERCOMING by Vinita Hampton Wright

We like to identify God with a day that goes well, speaking of God’s presence in terms of “blessings.” Sometimes we go so far as to equate God’s presence with our success or happiness. There is some truth to this, but such perceptions of God greatly limit our capacity to recognize holy presence every day.

More often than not, God is in the *overcoming*, the action we take in order to navigate the constant difficulties of life. When we solve a problem, face the truth, wrestle with a decision, suffer through illness, wait for help, learn to pray, lend a hand, or admit our doubt—these are the situations in which holy energy is powerfully at work. God’s love is not static; it moves and acts within our real circumstances. Holy life is not some pretty scene to admire; God is in the *doing*, in the living, and the growing.

So as you overcome today’s challenges—in your workplace, in your relationships, and in those problematic regions of the heart—know that God’s love is pulsing through your struggle. Holy wisdom informs your soul as you wonder and ponder. And the grace of God walks right along with you, toward the change you need and the joy you desire.



Online Resources:

[America Magazine](#) | [The Jesuit Review](#)

Where you can live-stream Jesuit Masses every day of the week: <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/24/here-are-jesuit-parishes-and-ministries-live-streaming-mass-every-day-week>