

6 Easter Monday 2020
JN 15:26 – 16:4

This morning's gospel finds the Disciples with our Blessed Lord at the Last Supper. Five times during the meal, Jesus taught the Apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit:

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you always, the Spirit of Truth.” (JN 14:16)

“I have told you this while I am still with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” (JN 14:26)

The next three references are recording in the gospels this week:

“When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.” (JN 15:26) This morning's gospel.

“But I tell you the truth, it is better for you that I go. For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” (JN 16:6) Tuesday's gospel.

“But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, we will guide you to all truth.” (JN 16:13) Wednesday's gospel.

The Apostles knew the Holy Spirit was coming but they did not know the when, the where, the how, or, the what of the Holy Spirit's descent. The unknown is always a source of tension.

Added to the doubts of the apostles was fear which prompted them to close the doors and to bolt them, lest the representatives of the Sanhedrin break in to arrest them on the false charge of stealing the Body or setting up an imposter to say he rose from the dead. There was also the fear that possibly the people might storm, as they often did, the houses of those who were unpopular. So the doors were shut, and the mental anguish, the emotional suffering, the tension was so thick, you could have cut it with a knife.

- ✓ The when was ten days after the Ascension, 50 days after the Resurrection; 50 days hence the word Pentecost (prefix pente meaning 5/50)

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled” is a reference to the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, which recalled the giving of the law to Moses, which occurred on the fiftieth day of the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. So the when was during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles. (AA 2)

- ✓ The where was in the Upper Room
- ✓ The how was in the form of tongues of fire
- ✓ The what was Jesus taking on a new body, from a human body born of Mary, to a mystical body in the Catholic Church.

Many who do not believe in Christ now think they would have believed in Him if they had lived in his day. In actuality, there would have been no great advantage. Those who do not

see Him as divine, living in His Mystical Body today, would not have seen him as divine living in His physical body yesterday.

In the early weeks of this pandemic, I wrote an adult education study based on Fulton Sheen's book, The Mystical Body of Christ. This book and the course I wrote will explain this very clearly. That the Physical Body of Christ, which walked the Earth 2000 years ago, is now replaced by His new body, the Church.

That is why Christ still walks the earth in his new body, the Church:

1. And He is still denied inns as He was in Bethlehem, that are now classrooms in public schools;
2. New Herods with names other than Christian persecute Him with the sword and bash Him in the media.
3. Other Satans appear in the desert to tempt Him to short cuts of popularity away from the Cross.
4. Palm Sundays of great triumph still occur, but they are still preludes to Good Fridays.
5. New charges are hurled against Him by a fixed mindset.
6. Separation of Church and state still accuses Him to be the enemy of Caesar.
7. There were still Judases within the Church who handed Him over - priests who molested children;

8. There are still disciples who walk with Him no more because His teaching is too hard; but no one ever became a Catholic because of moral laxity

But there is never a death without a resurrection. There will certainly be a few churches that will die because of this pandemic. They couldn't afford to keep their doors open. That might even happen to a few Catholic parishes, but that does not mean the end of the Catholic Church. By the end of time, Jesus' new body, the Church, the Catholic Church will have undergone a thousand deaths and a thousand resurrections. The Catholic Church is forever.