

6 Easter Wednesday 2020
JN 16:12-15

The setting for this evening's gospel is the Last Supper. It was the 9th hour; Jesus was to die the next day; and in John, Jesus crams five chapters worth of advice into the apostles because He loved them:

- ✓ Be good to one another
- ✓ Be careful
- ✓ You are different
- ✓ You are not like the rest of the world
- ✓ The Holy Spirit will guide you.

Five times Our Blessed Lord speaks of the Holy Spirit,

- ✓ how the Holy Spirit will be a guide to all truth
- ✓ the Holy Spirit will back up all that Jesus taught
- ✓ He speaks about how the three persons of the Trinity are one.

It is through the Holy Spirit that Jesus is with us always in the Eucharist. Jesus speaks and acts through the person of the priest (in persona Christi), in the person of Christ, when the bread and wine are consecrated into

the Body and Blood of Christ. Three times, the Holy Spirit descends upon the bread and the wine:

1. The first time, or first epiclesis, the first descending, the Holy Spirit makes the bread and wine holy. This is signified with the priest raises his hands over the bread and wine. I will point this out during the consecration at today's Mass, also realizing the first time the Lord used me to consecrate "in persona Christi" is 31 years ago today, my 31st anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.
2. The second time, or second epiclesis, the Holy Spirit descends and changes the bread into the Body of Christ at the elevation of the host.
3. The third time, or third epiclesis, the Holy Spirit descends and changes the wine into the Blood of Christ at the elevation of the chalice.

With the Blessed Sacrament present in every tabernacle throughout the world, even until the end of time, this is how Jesus will be with us always as He said at the Great Commission, before ascending into heaven. And I will be with you always, even to the end of time.

After the Resurrection, when Our Risen Lord appeared to the Apostles the second time when Thomas was with them, He said, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

About whom is Our Risen Lord referring, but us, those who believe without seeing Our Risen Lord in His physical body, but in His Eucharistic Body.

Last Sunday, I was getting ready to begin a power walk when one of our parishioners drove up to drop off his envelope. We were talking about the Church opening for private prayer, and eventually for Mass. We talked about the Adoration Chapel, and when the Church was open for Adoration before the restrictions warranted closing the Church. And I just said I am so conscious how privileged I am to be able to adore through this pandemic. Those hours before the Blessed Sacrament were the most peaceful hours of this pandemic, and those peaceful hours

were many. It's the closest I'll be to Our Blessed Lord this side of life. So once the restrictions are lifted and we are able to return to Adoration, if you have not been in the habit to adore, pray to enter into the habit to adore. It's the closest you'll get to our Blessed Lord this side of life.