

Monday, May 18, 2020; 6th Week of Easter

Acts 16:11-15; Psalm 149:1-6, 9; John 15:26–16:4

“When the Advocate comes...”

As Advocate, the Holy Spirit stands in defense and protection of disciples who commit to Christ. He does not only stand for us before Christ and the Father, he also accompanies us to ensure that our Christian witness is consistent, firm and result-oriented. As the Spirit of truth, he leads disciples ever closer to God and to Christ by inspiring in them a longing for truth, not only in the purity of their commitment and proclamation, but more importantly, in submitting themselves to constant renewal by God and Christ, who are Truth in themselves.

The Holy Spirit, thus, helps disciples to become more God-like, such that their very presence becomes truly representative of God’s presence in the world, even though the world would violently resist that presence. The first reading reminds us that it is important for us to welcome that presence by embracing God’s word and the bearers of that word. In doing that, we welcome Christ himself. Yet, in difficult times like this, our generosity toward the poor stands out as a greater witness to, and welcome of, Christ. Just as Lydia was blessed for welcoming Paul and his companions, so also would we be if we care for Christ’s face and wounds in the many poor around us.

Lord, send us your Spirit. Amen.

Fr. Maurice