

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



2013

May 19, 2013  
Pentecost Sunday - Mass during the Day

## Gospel

### Jn 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

### Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

Jesus said to his disciples: "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. "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

## Spiritual Reflection:

In his book *First Comes Love: Finding Your Family in the Church and the Trinity* Scott Hahn writes: "For Christians today, the Person of the Spirit has proved to be the most elusive of the Blessed Trinity—so elusive that one modern saint called the Holy Spirit "the Great Unknown." He goes on and writes: It seems almost blasphemous to say this, but Christians can place too much emphasis on Christ—if we also neglect the stated purpose of His coming. He came to earth in order to give us the Spirit. He ascended to the Father so that the Spirit could descend on the Church. In these divine actions, salvation history manifested the divine processions. The Father sending the Son in history is an image of the Father generating the Son in eternity. The descent of the Spirit upon the Church at Pentecost is an image of the Spirit's procession from the Father and the Son in eternity.

So if we focus on the works of Christ to the exclusion of the Holy Spirit, we are missing the most important work of Christ! The Spirit's essential work is to reproduce Christ's life, suffering, death, and resurrection in each and all of us. IF we neglect the Spirit, we are neglecting Christ, too."

## Spiritual Questions:

1. How would you describe the Holy Spirit?
2. How does the Son giving us the Holy Spirit show us God's generosity?
3. Why is the Holy Spirit called the advocate?
4. Why is it important that we receive God's spirit?
5. Why is Pentecost and not Christmas consider the birthday of the Church?