

HOMILY: Sixth Sunday of Easter May 26 2019

INTRODUCTION

“CRISIS” is a word that is in the news a lot these days.— There is, political crisis,- economic crisis,- international crisis ,- personal crisis- medical crisis. – We all know medical crisis, especially, as we get older. There are times when all of life seems in crisis.

In today’s gospel reading, -we just heard, - taken from the Last Supper narrative according to the scripture scholars. - Jesus is preparing His disciples for the crisis of His Passion, - and then His return to the Father. - It is called in scripture,-according to the “Scripture SCHOLARS”-- the “Farewell Address”, by Christ to his Disciples.

GOSPEL

In today’s Gospel, the Lord describes two pieces of essential equipment to help His disciples including me to handle any crisis in my Life.-His word – His Spirit .

First He gives me His word. Jesus says: “Anyone who loves me will be true to my word”. – For us Catholics, we

find the word in Scripture, and Tradition.— By keeping that word, by following it, I am secure in Christ. – So often I can waste time arguing about Scripture and its translations, and never take its truth into my heart.

In this age of spin, Scripture includes the unchanging rock of God's truth. - God's word lifts my vision beyond the immediate present to the larger drama of my life. It's like a newspaper photo. If I look too closely, I see only dots, but when I move back the dots become a picture.

Cultural styles may change but nobody can ever destroy it. People may ignore it but can't destroy it In the words of the old hymn "The body they may kill, God's truth abides forever. The word of Christ is the abiding rock of truth in my heart, in any crisis in my life, and is there for every one of us here today.

The Holy Spirit

The second piece of equipment Christ gives me to face any crisis in my life is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord says to me: "The Advocate whom the Father will send in,

my name, will instruct you in everything". Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will not only work in our Churches that He himself will not only be present in the Sacraments , or where two or three are gathered in His name, but will dwell within me and make His home in me. I don't have to hunt for God, like somebody in the series of "search" programs on the Discovery Chanel. God dwells inside me through the power and promise of my Baptism and Confirmation. In any crisis, in my life, I can know that the Holy Spirit is with me.

The Holy Spirit convinces me of the right when I do what is right, convicts me of wrong when I do wrong, and reminds me of Christ's truth when I need reminding. The Holy Spirit is my compass, - my moral radar,- my spiritual sonar. The Holy Spirit is at work in the life of every person here. Like Christ's word, the Holy Spirit is there for every one of us. AMEN