

FATHER MARK SCHULTE
HOMILY
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
MAY 10, 2026

“You Have Been Sent”

My Brothers and Sisters, last Sunday Jesus spoke to us about His relationship with God the Father; He said “I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me”. Now Jesus is going to introduce the third person of the Trinitarian Godhead, the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:15-21) (CCC 692).

As we approach the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, we should take a brief look at the progression of God’s revelation of Himself over time (CCC 1287).

In the beginning God created the world and all that is in it. There is at that time no mention of His Son or the Holy Spirit. They are present at the creation but not specifically mentioned (Gn 1:1-2; 25). God does however use the personal pronoun “us” indicating a plurality of persons (Gn 1:26).

Our first parents Adam and Eve sinned against God the creator by disobeying Him, resulting in a lost and fallen world. The reality of death, the effect of sin, has now entered into the world as well. Not only that, but now man is permanently separated from His creator. God will continually care for humanity, but from a distance.

From a biblical perspective this condition will last for approximately four thousand years. From time-to-time God would, however, communicate with humanity and make covenants with them. The first covenant will be made with Noah after the great flood which destroyed the earth and all its inhabitants, except for Noah and his family (CCC 56-64).

From the line of Noah’s son Shem, God will make a covenant with Abraham. From Abraham’s lineage God will form a special relationship through which His plan of salvation will come. God will make a covenant with Moses and the rest of the Israelites, the descendants of Jacob. That covenant will stand until the coming of the prophesied Messiah, Jesus Christ. Up until the coming of Jesus Christ the Israelites were only familiar with God as the creator God, Yahweh, “I AM Who AM.” The concept of God as three persons in one God will be revealed later through Jesus Christ. Jesus described His relationship with His Father, and later He will introduce the third person of the Holy Trinity who is the Holy Spirit.

Jesus knows the purpose for which He came into the world, which is to suffer and die in atonement for the sins of humanity. Once that is complete, He will no longer be visibly present in the world to His people. He will ascend into heaven to be positioned at His Father’s right hand. He did promise to return at some unrevealed time in the future.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is telling His people that even though He is going away He will not abandon them. He will send to them a "counselor" or advocate. Someone to guide and teach them until He returns again (Jn 14:26) (CCC 729). The advocate is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity. The coming of the Holy Spirit will take place at Pentecost, fifty days following His resurrection from the dead.

For two thousand years, that is from that First Pentecost until the present the Church and the world have been living in the age of the Holy Spirit. Because the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God, if the Father and the Son are dwelling in you, the Holy Spirit is in you as well. It is the Holy Spirit that is teaching you and guiding you to live in Holiness, preparing you to eventually enter into heaven.

In the economy of salvation, it is sometimes referred to as the great sending. God the Father sent His Son, the "Word", into the world to redeem His people from their sins (Jn 1:1-18). The Son sends the Holy Spirit to baptized believers to accompany them while they are on this earth, preparing them in holiness, for eternal life with the Trinity in heaven.

This in essence is what Jesus is describing in today's Gospel. I am just filling in the blanks a little bit. God the Father is the great Creator of all things. God the Son, Jesus Christ, has redeemed sinners, making heaven once again available to them. And God the Holy Spirit is the sanctifier who teaches us in the ways of Holiness while we sojourn in a fallen world.

The Church teaches her people that while praying they should call upon all three persons of the Holy Trinity. We make the Sign of the Cross in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, Jesus, in the consecrated bread and wine is offered to God the Father, through His Holy Spirit. In this way we give glory to God the Father and thank Him (Eucharist) for all He has done for us. The priest will say while elevating the consecrated bread and wine; "through Him, with Him, in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen".

God the Father has sent His Son Jesus. Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit upon the Church. The Holy Spirit completes the great sending by sending His Church out into the world in order to draw all souls back to God. This is what takes place at the end of each Mass. The faithful, as soldiers of Christ, are sent out into the world bringing the light of Christ to everyone. Therefore, when we attend Holy Mass we are not a bunch of bench warmers. We are players. We have a purpose. We are on God's team. Someone is waiting for you specifically to bring the light of Christ to them. God has sent you to them. Don't let them down.

CCC = Catechism of the Catholic Church