

Sixth Sunday of Easter – Year A

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus announces that, after his resurrection, he will send the Holy Spirit to the apostles, to guide them and recall to their minds and explain the things that Jesus said. The Holy Spirit is revealed in this way as another divine Person together with the Father and the Son. This constitutes an announcement of the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, which will be definitively revealed when the Holy Spirit comes.

The name Jesus gives the Holy Spirit, "Advocate" or "Counselor," means someone "called to the side" of someone else, to accompany, console, protect, and defend that person. Jesus also speaks of the Holy Spirit as being "another Counselor" because Jesus himself is our Advocate and Mediator in heaven beside the Father, and the Holy Spirit will be given to the disciples in his place when he ascends into heaven, as an Advocate or Protector who will aid them on earth.

As we make our way in this world, the Holy Spirit is our Advocate, or Counselor, amid difficulties and against the temptation to feel disheartened. "In spite of our great limitations, we can look up to heaven with confidence and joy: God loves us and frees us from our sins. The presence and the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church are a foretaste of eternal happiness, of the joy and peace for which we are destined by God" (St. Josemaría Escrivá, *Christ is Passing By*, 128).

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Father Frei