

Homily

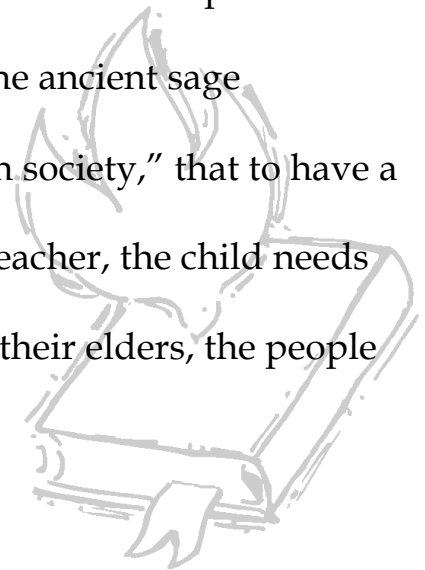
6th Sunday of Easter – A

Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
May 02-03, 2026

Acts 6: 1-7
Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19
1 Pt 2: 4-9
Jn 14: 1-12

By the time you are watching this particular homily, I will have been back from Vietnam for quite a while. My trip to Vietnam to visit these students was about teaching them business ethics, but it was more than business ethics. What we are trying to do is we are trying to instill a moral compass into these students to give them consistency in life.

During our class time, we toured the various philosophers that promote a good set of ethics so that we are good neighbors and stewards to the communities we serve. In that light, our classed discussed how the ancient philosopher Aristotle focused on what is *good* concerning the human person that is revealed in the human person's acts. We discussed the business philosophy of the ancient sage Confucius and his view concerning "harmony in society," that to have a good society, the student needs to listen to the teacher, the child needs to listen to the parent, children need to listen to their elders, the people



of the city need to respect their leaders, whoever they may be. We may not always agree with these leaders, but we respect them, for by doing we respect the office is so important.

In this course, I taught the students that this form of ethics that we are doing is a consistent ethic through life, that what we are teaching them is not supposed to be just in the workforce, but It is supposed to be in the home, in work, in the community, right across the board. We discussed the views of Immanuel Kant and his theory of deontology, or the duty to do right by the people in your community. We then referenced Martin Buber, who talks about love, love in the workplace, love for your family, love for a community, a deep respect and care that we have for the person next to us. This is a theme that has to be in all of our lives.

As a Catholic university, and I honestly believe this, all of this can be summarized through St. Francis and St. Augustine,. If we have love in our hearts, if we are doing this in the correct way, in some very small way, even if we are an atheist, we have a connection with God, because

God is love, God is in each and every one of us and what we do with that love shows God how much we care.

The second reading from today's Mass and that First Letter of St. Peter, provides instructions to our catechumens, or in this case, our newly planted, our neophytes, who have received the sacraments for the first time, to instruct them how to love, not just in one venue, but all the way across the board, that consistent ethic of love and care for each other. As I reflected on 1 Peter, I was watching parishioners here decorating at St. Anne's during Easter, as one couple that was married for 50 years was working side-by-side with another couple that was married for less than five. When you see how couples at the beginning of marriage and during the senior years of marriage working together, how two different couples from two different backgrounds were able to come together and do what was right in God's eyes, because they love this church, then you understand what we are trying to learn in a business ethics course and certainly in a faith community. Over at St. Patrick's, we have a whole group of people that dedicate themselves to taking care of cleaning our buildings and loving our parishioners and

doing all these prayer services for the good of all. This is the gospel message that Christ also is trying to impart in us – not just the practical but the spiritual as well.

During the latter weeks of the Easter Season, the theme of our readings become very specific – in these readings, we focus on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We learn that the Holy Spirit lives in each and every one of us. What we do with that spirit shows God how much we care. If that Holy Spirit lives in each and every one of us, no matter who we are, then, if somehow, some way, if we embrace that Spirit then we can learn how to treat each other with respect, with dignity, while have a magnanimous approach to any person we encounter, and, subsequently, then we have a chance to get to heaven... and so do the people we serve. Because we are doing what God asks us to do as Christians of the Spirit and, whether the people receiving the Spirit know it or not, they are doing what God is asking them to do as well.

So we come here today, on the sixth Sunday of Easter, giving thanks for the students who have received their Confirmations and their First Communion during the services we offered during these last two

weekends, preparing ourselves for what is yet to come, with the St.

Anne Novena and all our wonderful summer opportunities. We have a lot of faith and a lot of love that is in these communities, whether people can see it or not. Very much, the people with whom I am working in this area, with the Food Pantries and with Harbor House and with the Manteno Veterans Home, the Centro Vilaseca in Joliet, we have talked about these organizations over and over again. These organizations are blessings to me, because they remind me what the gospel message is trying to tell me to do, as the scriptures are trying to teach you – to love God, to take that love, to share it with the people to whom we are committed to serve, which is our proper vocation, and then to extend that love in every venue, to every single person that we meet. This is our prayer.