

Sixth Sunday at Easter, May 10, 2026

How many times in our lives have we used the phrase “If only I had known?” That phrase could be pertaining to the stock markets, that phrase could be pertaining to a medical procedure or a friendship or a business venture. Or even a game of chess. Maybe we can use that phrase, “If only I had known” in any number of circumstances and it implies that our course of action would be different if we have access to certain information. That's pretty logical. It makes good sense if we know something that affects the way that we operate, what we choose.

And the same principle is, in kind of a subtle way, present in today's Gospel, where Jesus says, *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. The Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot accept because it neither sees nor knows him.”* The principle is, if the world could see or know the Spirit of Truth, the world could accept that Spirit but because the world doesn't know the Spirit of Truth, doesn't see the Spirit of Truth, the world cannot accept it. And again, that's very logical. How can the world accept a Spirit it does not know? How could you love a person you don't know, you don't know about?

Now, in light of this, Jesus doesn't say, “So, sad thing for the world. They don't know the Spirit of Truth? That's really tough.” No, earlier on in the Gospel of John, we hear that *“God sends his Son into the world not to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through him.”* So, God desires that humanity be saved, God wants every human being to come to eternal life through knowledge of his Son. So, dismiss the world? You don't know the Spirit? Yes, that's

just a sad thing. No, here's where you and I come in. He sends us into the world to make the Spirit of Truth known so that the world can accept the Spirit of Truth and believe and have life.

The Easter season, you know, this wonderful, joyful season when we ponder all that God has done for us to bring us to new life. It's the season we celebrate this Sacraments of Initiation. We are looking forward to Pentecost and the renewal of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is a season of bringing hope, new life for us. It can be a little bit abstract in that sense. You know, think about the Resurrection, think about the Holy Spirit. These things can be sort of heady, I guess, or they can remain in the realm of thoughts and ideas and memories and reflection.

But it gets fairly concrete when we ask ourselves the question: Are we making the Spirit of Truth known in the world out there? Are we bringing the love of God in concrete ways into the places we go, whether that's our workplace, even just our home - is our family life being transformed by the reality of the Holy Spirit, and the Resurrection, our faith, the gift of Pentecost? The living of God in our souls. Are our households different because of Easter? Even, you know, this year? Is Easter this year different than last year? Are we deeper in love? Are we living more and more fully by the Holy Spirit? And the reality is, we carry the Holy Spirit in our souls, so we do bring the love of God wherever we go. But that's the easy answer. That can be used as a bit of a cop out. Well, of course we bring the love of God - I'm there, and the Holy Spirit dwells in me. You know we also have to act out and speak in order to be true instruments of bringing that Spirit of Truth into the places we go. We really need the help of God to do that. These days leading up to Pentecost are certainly a

time when we pray for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. But let's not limit that kind of prayer to the days leading up to Pentecost.

Let's pray every day, every day, for the rebirth and the stirring of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Praying each day,

“Come the Holy Spirit and enkindle in my heart, the fire of your love, stir up in me a zeal, a zeal for proclaiming Christ like they had in the early Church.”

We hear about Philip going down to Samaria proclaiming Christ to them. proclaiming Christ boldly! We see the Apostles going out boldly, proclaiming Christ, proclaiming, and announcing the Resurrection of the Lord. They are animated by the Holy Spirit, that same Holy Spirit that is given to us in our Baptism and is renewed in us when we receive any Sacrament, but most especially the Holy Eucharist.

So, what a nice, important, powerful gift to ask for when we approach the altar for Holy Communion.

“Jesus, stir up the gift of your Spirit in my heart. Fill me with zeal and boldness for proclaiming you. Wherever I go, in my family, in my social circles, even at work.”

Wherever we go, let the Lord give us the words. Let the Spirit give us the words or the actions. We only need to be willing. And we can ask the Lord for the grace to be eager to go out and share our faith wherever we go.

We pray today. that the world that doesn't accept the Spirit of Truth because it neither sees nor knows him, come to know the Spirit of

Truth through us in really concrete ways by the way we share our faith, by the way we proclaim and live the love of God in the world.