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*Fr. Thomas Herge*



*Parochial Vicar, St. Michael the Archangel*

*6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – Year A (May 17, 2020)*

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Christ is risen!

“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” Every single word of today’s gospel is priceless. Your homework for this week is to read it over and over again. We really need to be reminded right now of the line I just quoted from Jesus. Perhaps we don’t feel what He is saying. “I will not leave you orphans.” But don’t we feel as orphans? Human beings, even ones appointed by Jesus himself, fall short. Even if they act perfectly, that is no guarantee that we will *feel* sufficiently cared for. But faith isn’t about feelings. We do our best in that arena, but we judge by the Spirit, not by the flesh, and our feelings, as ennobled as they may be, belong to the flesh.

What is Jesus’ promise? How will He come to us? “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. But you know him, because he remains with you, and will be in you.” Jesus comes to us by His Spirit. He hides Himself from those who hate Him. He shows Himself to those who love Him—those who keep His commandments. As Pentecost approaches, our hope for this Advocate intensifies, and perhaps never more than in this year as we anticipate our return to the Holy Sacrifice. I urge you to throw all of your efforts into praying for the indwelling of the Spirit—the Spirit who gives us life; the Spirit who makes us abhor sin; the Spirit who destroys lies; the Spirit with whom we were sealed by Sacred Chrism and the laying on of hands unto an odor of sanctity. Make your soul a fit Temple for Him, and you will not be orphans whether you have the Eucharist or not. And when Christ comes to enter this Temple under the veil of the appearance of bread, He will rejoice to reign in your heart with the Father and the Spirit, for all the ages of ages. Amen.

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