



Blessed Sacrament Parish
Homily by Father Mike Kuse
May 28, 2017 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Reading I Acts 1:12-14

Psalm 27:1, 4, 7-8

Reading II First Letter of St. Peter 4:13-16

Gospel John 17:1-11

Homily

“I will be with you until the end of the age.” You stop and think about that for a moment and what does that really mean? It simply means that when we are baptized the Spirit that comes into us, the Spirit that is going to come into Elias, is the Spirit that isn’t good just for ninety days — it’s good for the end of the days for each one of us. We are all not going to go home to Heaven on the same day — we all have our moment. But until then, Jesus gives that promise that if my Spirit is in you, you simply do not have anything to worry about. “I taught you how to love, I taught you how to forgive, I have given you my body and my blood. I’ve washed your feet. I’ve opened your eyes and your ears. What more do you need to follow me and to make sure that when you follow me that you are never going to be alone.”

In our society we look at years and dates to help us realize how God journeys with us. If you saw in the paper yesterday, a woman on the front page of the Herald-Whig was Ruth Doellman Teijido. She is going to turn 100 in June. She was baptized and raised in this parish and she is now living at the Veterans Home. She signed up and was a nurse in World War II, and met her husband and they came back to Quincy and had three children and shortly after those three children were born God took her husband home. As a widow she raised these three kids to adulthood. She has been faithful. That Spirit was always inside of her. And now at 100 years of age that Spirit has never left her. She served her country, she raised her kids and she always has that smile.

Today Joe and Janet Conover are celebrating 50 years of marriage. You think about that. Just like when I was celebrating 50 years of priesthood. It is just a matter of time, but it is during those years that the spirit of love is still enkindled in every couple. If you look at your life from the day you met, to the day you got married, to having your children, was just walking that journey and that the Spirit of God has never left you. And how we grow closer through that sacrament of marriage and going through the ups and downs of life and twists and turns that everybody goes through and Jesus says, “I will be with you until the end of time. Don’t ever doubt that I love you.”

Elias has been alive for just a few weeks, and to think that the Spirit of God comes into this child and is going to take him on a journey and he has no clue where that journey is going to go. But the one thing that he does know is that God will be always with him. So this morning we are winding up this Easter season. Next Sunday when we come it will be the Feast of Pentecost. And that is where we celebrate the fact that Jesus says, "I am One with the Father and we give you our Spirit and now you are the church." That's an awesome experience. And it's wondering when you read the news, or listen to the news and observe things in your life, you ask, "Where is that Spirit at times? Why can't people just accept people because we are all God's children and we all have that Spirit that comes to us through baptism?"

Why is it that we cannot sense that in each other? That is the challenge that is before us. You and I come here week after week to be nurtured and to listen to the word of God and to receive the body and blood of Christ and then go out and say, "OK, God. Here we go out again for another week. I have no idea what is going to take place. All I know is that I have you within my heart."

A hero in the Christian sense of the word is someone who can bring the sense of Christ into his heart and take that gift until God says, "Reach out. Hold onto my hands and I am going to take you home."

It is the home that we all desire. I cannot get there alone. I need all of you. You can't get there alone. You need the rest of us and that is why we have the beautiful experience of marriage uniting people and bringing life into the world and nurturing children from one generation to the next. Jesus says, "Don't worry. You have nothing to worry about because I am with you until the end of the age. Don't worry about the end of the age because when that moment comes I will take everyone to be in my presence and you will know everlasting joy."

So when you and I have the happiest days of our lives for whatever reason, God says, "You're just getting a touch of it. When you really get home to Heaven you are going to realize the mountain experience of a lifetime." That doesn't mean that you and I should want to die this afternoon. We should want to live. But we should want to live to the fullest, and just to know that — "Why, if God is with me, why to I need to worry?"

So comes the words. "Just remember, the Father and I are One, and we will be with you until the end of the age."

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