

May 25-26: Sixth Sunday of Easter Awareness Weekend: Hospitality

Readings: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29;
Psalm 67: 2-3,5,6,8;
Rev.21: 10-14, 22-23;
John 14:23-29.

I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.

The Gospel presents Jesus' reassurance that He will be sending the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. This Sunday stands between the Ascension and Pentecost to remind us of our location: the "already" of the announcement of the kingdom and the "not yet" of the kingdom's fulfillment. The prayer of Jesus makes it clear that it is here in this world that the disciples of Christ are called to do the work of **evangelization**.

The Scriptures invite our reflection on the discernment of the Spirit's presence in the varied activities of the Church, always leading the Church to greater evangelization, outreach, and commitment to the tradition handed down by the Apostles. It's the perfect time to reflect on our **good stewardship of hospitality**.

This is the first part of the Stewardship renewal - **Awareness Weekend** - where parishioners are reminded that now is the time when we will all once again begin to think about the many gifts God has given to us, especially the way our gifts of time and talent will be expressed in the **1st Pillar of Stewardship: Hospitality**. We reflect on the way we share and use those gifts in today's world. **Awareness Weekend** is designed to help make us aware - as individuals connected to this parish community - of what we will be doing during the next couple of weeks.

The Liturgy moves us toward the completion of the celebration of the Easter mystery at Pentecost. We are coming to the close of the Easter season, as we await the coming of the Spirit. We also prepare to once again recommit ourselves to the stewardship of our time and talent through the **1st Pillar of Stewardship: Hospitality**. How do we respond to the challenge? What will be our legacy? Are we **welcoming and invitational** when we reach out to others in need?

Homiletic Helps

- ❖ A welcoming attitude can go a long way when it comes to Church. **Good stewardship of Hospitality** is a concrete manifestation of our witness to Jesus. Giving witness can be as **hospitable** as holding the church door for the person walking slowly behind, **inviting** a neighbor to attend Mass with our family or **welcoming** a new parishioner.
- ❖ The coming celebration of Pentecost will recall the gifts of the Spirit bestowed on the church in abundance, and the church's response to those gifts. What are the gifts that have been bestowed upon me by that same Spirit? And what has my response been?
- ❖ This weekend is Memorial Day Weekend. While for many it signals the beginning of a kind of summer environment, it is a civil holiday which recalls the countless men and women who have given their lives in the service of our nation, and in the service of justice, freedom, and peace. These men and women stand as examples of placing not only their gifts, but their very lives at the service of the human family.

