



May 29, 2011 Sixth Sunday of Easter

"I will not leave you orphans..." John 14:8

Dear Friends;

Sr Barbara Reid O.P begins her comments for this weeks scriptures noting that "The number of children worldwide who have lost parents is estimated at 133 million...In sub-Saharan Africa, some fifteen million children have lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic." The Hebrew Scriptures remind us often to care for the widow and orphan—that is the powerless of our world.

Today's reading from John is taken from Jesus' farewell to his disciples at the Last Supper. He tells them that he will be going and yet he will not leave them alone. Because the bond of love which unites Jesus to the Father, and allows Jesus to abide (live in) with the Father, will now allow the disciples to live in Jesus.

That bond between the Father and Son we call the Spirit. Jesus also calls the Spirit the "Paraclete." This Greek word has many meanings, "someone to speak on your behalf," "defender," as in an attorney, and "comforter." Ultimately Jesus is saying that the love God has for him, and the love Jesus has for his disciples, is stronger than even death. Do not be fearful or anxious. And as we do the things Jesus did he lives in us and we live in him.

Dorothy Pryse was listening to the radio as she was driving through town. A man was talking about kindness. He said "I wonder how many of you listening to me are thinking about being kind while driving?" Dorothy was thinking about what he was saying. A few blocks later she was in heavy traffic. There was a woman in a car trying to get out of a driveway. Dorothy knew the woman would have a difficult time so she slowed down to let her merge into traffic. The woman smiled and waved at her.

When Dorothy got to the grocery store she saw a parking place. And started to pull in at the same time another car from the opposite side tried pulling in. Dorothy backed up and let the other woman have the place and then found another place to park the car. As Dorothy and the other driver got out of the car the other driver said, "I can't believe what you just did. Anyone else would make me back out."

Dorothy explained that she just heard on the radio about showing love and kindness. The two women began talking. Dorothy discovered that the woman had just moved into the area, and didn't know anyone, and was looking for a church. "I invited her to come to my church," Dorothy said "and a strong friendship blossomed from that chance meeting and a small act of kindness."

Fr Timothy Radcliffe O.P. says that the Holy Spirit "thrusts us out of our ecclesiastical nest into mission." The Spirit empowers us to continue the work of Jesus in the world. Dorothy felt the gentle push of the Spirit as she drove with kindness and befriended a stranger. Can we learn to do the same in our lives?

Today we welcome Fr. George Mockel who will administer the sacrament of Confirmation for our youth and adult candidates. We pray that they feel the nudge of the Spirit and set our world on fire and leave no one orphaned.

Peace,

Fr Ron