

## Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 17, 2020

(On the lighter side) *A Pilipino parish priest cancelled the fixed rate for payment of weddings in his Church. The basis for any monetary donation is how the groom can quantify the qualities of his bride to be.*

*He asked the first candidate, "how responsible is your bride? What will you pay for your wedding is subject to the extent of her being responsible? The groom proudly replied, "she is very responsible . . . I will donate 5 thousand pesos for our wedding if only to appreciate her being responsible person..." The second candidate was asked: 'how understanding is your future wife? That trait is the worth of your payment???' The groom confidently declared: 'she is very understanding I will vouch by giving 10,000 pesos as payment for our wedding...'*

*The third candidate was asked: 'how beautiful is your bride?' Your wedding fee depends upon her beauty. The groom got his wallet and gave the priest 5 pesos. "What // the priest exclaimed // and very surprised . . 'you mean her beauty is only worth 5 pesos? Is that how un-attracted she truly is?' Yes, Father," the man explained . . . if you don't believe me // you can see her for yourself. She is there in the front office waiting for me...'*

*The priest went to the front Office and he carefully looked over the groom's wife to be and then he came back to the man . . . and gave him back 3 pesos...what are these 3 pesos for?' the man asked his Pastor. The priest replied, 'that is your change!'*

*You already know what happened ? ? ?*

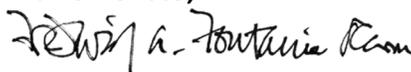
**Today we are already on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter.** This Sunday comes just before the Lord's Ascension. It marks Jesus' last presence with His Apostles. The gospel reading contains Jesus' tender farewell to His disciples. This gospel starts with a beautiful statement: "if anyone loves, he will keep my word." This is what we see between a happily married couple. Any decision one makes has the consideration for the work on the other . . . hence there is unity and peaceful co-existence between them. There can be even happy surprises just like in my introductory story. For example, the husband doing dish washing and / or laundry spontaneously // for the sick or tired wife // shows some comforting and assuring signs of affection and his wife feels edified and loved in return.

Jesus will go away but His departure will not mark the end of His ministry because His mission is to bring back others to God. In fact, His death and Resurrection will be the culmination of His work. But Jesus will make a new and different type of presence among us. Jesus will no longer walk with His disciples as the Rabbi and teacher of Nazareth. He will walk with them as the glorious, Risen Lord but as an invisible Lord and Holy Redeemer.

Jesus will NOT leave His disciples orphans. He will send the Holy Spirit as their Paraclete in other words: their consoler, their advocate, their inspirer, their encourager, and their counselor. The Holy Spirit will teach them everything about Jesus and with His help, Jesus' disciples will be certainly capable of continuing the work of their Master and teacher whose message will reach to the ends of the whole world through the empowerment and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the helper and giver of life, itself!

When Jesus mentions the Holy Spirit, He does it in the midst of peacemaking. What does Jesus mean by peace? Saint Augustine has a beautiful definition of peace / shalom. According to St. Augustine, shalom means: "serenity of the mind, simplicity of heart and tranquility of soul . . ."

Paz en Cristo,



Fr. David Fontaine, O. Carm., Pastor