

## 6th Sunday of Easter – May 17, 2020

### **PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR PROTECTION**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us.

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

#### **Psalm 34, 1-8**

I will bless the LORD at all times;

his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast in the LORD;

let the humble hear and be glad.

<sup>3</sup> Oh, magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt his name together!

<sup>4</sup> I sought the LORD, and he answered me

and delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>5</sup> Those who look to him are radiant,

and their faces shall never be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup> This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him

and saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD encamps

around those who fear him, and delivers them.

<sup>8</sup> Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good!

Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

### **First Reading** *Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8,14-17*

The people of Samaria accept the Gospel of Jesus proclaimed to them by Philip.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 66:1-7,16,20*

Sing praise to God, all the earth.

### **Second Reading**

*1 Peter 3:15-18*

Be ready to give explanation for your hope in Christ.

### **Gospel Reading**

*John 14:15-21*

Jesus promises his disciples that he will send them another advocate, the Spirit of truth.

### **Background on the Gospel Reading**

In today's reading Jesus offers encouragement to his disciples, who will soon see him crucified. He reassures them that even though he will leave them, he will not abandon them. Instead he will send them the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, through whom the disciples will continue to live in union with Jesus.

Another word used to describe the Holy Spirit is *Paraclete*, a legal term meaning "one who offers defense for another." Note that Jesus says that he will send "another Advocate." Jesus himself is the first advocate, interceding for his disciples with the Father.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the disciples will come to know and appreciate the unity of the Son and the Father. They will also understand that they too participate

in the communion between the Father and the Son: "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you" (John 14:20).

### **Family Connection**

The mystery of the Trinity can be difficult for us to grasp. Today's Gospel invites us to consider how the three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— work together so that God's salvation is made known to us. Jesus' mission is continued through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of his disciples. We have received this same Spirit through our Baptisms. The Spirit, living and working within us, reveals the mystery of God's love for us. Just as the first disciples were not left orphaned, we are not orphaned; we remain in God's embrace through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, we come to share in the love of God made known to us in Jesus.

Pray together, thanking God for this gift of the Holy Spirit by praying the [Prayer to the Holy Spirit](#).

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### **PRAYER DURING PANDEMIC**

Lord God,

I pray for all who have become sick or died by the corona virus that has been spreading throughout the world.

In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease,

In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak,

In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have fallen sick,

Welcome into your arms the ones that died,

Comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray.

Amen.

***In her motherly concern, the Blessed Virgin came here to Fatima...It is a mother's sorrow that compels her to speak; the destiny of her children is at stake. For this reason she asks the little shepherds: "Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners."***

-St. John Paul II



**St. Rita of Cascia- May 22**

Was born in Umbria, Italy, in 1386. She was married at the young age, but later became a nun after was widower. She set a good example of prayer and penance for many people. She received a wound in her forehead that resembled a wound inflicted by Christ's crown of thorns. When she was dying, she asked for a rose in winter, one was found and was brought to her. Her body remained incorrupt after her death. **She became the patroness of the impossible, as well as of illness.**

Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, help my heart to persevere in all that is holy. -St. Rita of Cascia



Saint John Paul II, pray for us!

***St. John Paul II was born in May 18, 1920***

***Prayer: Trusting fully in Your infinite mercy and in the maternal intercession of Mary, he has given us a living image of Jesus the Good Shepherd and has shown us that holiness is the necessary measure of ordinary Christian life and it is the way of achieving eternal communion with you. Grand us, by his intercession and according to Your will, the graces we implore. Amen.***