

VI (A) Sunday of Easter > Homily ~ May 10, 2026.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks words of comfort to His disciples at the Last Supper. He knows He is about to leave them physically, but He promises: "I will not leave you orphans." He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit - the Divine Advocate - who will remain with them forever.

There is a story about the famous Triple Crown racehorses like American Pharoah and Justify. Only a few horses in history achieved such greatness. Why? Because they had strength, endurance, training, and expert guidance that brought out the power already within them.

In a similar way, every Christian has been given spiritual strength through the Holy Spirit. Through Baptism and Confirmation, God has placed His own Spirit within us. Parents, teachers, priests, and this faith community help train us in Christian living. But the question is: are we using the gifts and power the Holy Spirit gives us?

The first reading shows how the Holy Spirit transformed Philip, Peter, and John into courageous witnesses. Philip preached with power, and many Samaritans accepted Christ. The Spirit gave the apostles courage, wisdom, and zeal.

In the second reading, St. Peter reminds us that the Holy Spirit helps believers remain faithful even during suffering and opposition. The Spirit strengthens us when life becomes difficult.

And in the Gospel, Jesus tells us that those who love Him and keep His commandments will experience the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwelling within them.

So, what does the Holy Spirit do for us today?

First, the Holy Spirit teaches us and deepens our understanding of our Faith. He enlightens our minds and hearts.

Second, He gives us courage to defend and live our Faith in a world that often challenges Christian values.

Third, the Holy Spirit teaches us how to love like Jesus - to recognize Christ in the poor, the sick, the lonely, the homeless, the addicted, and even those rejected by society. The Spirit makes us instruments of healing and reconciliation.

Therefore, dear friends, let us welcome the Holy Spirit every day.

When we are tempted, let us ask the Spirit for strength. When wounded by past hurts or addictions, let us ask the Spirit for healing. When we struggle to forgive, let us ask the Spirit for grace. And when we meet people each day, let us ask the Spirit to help us see Jesus in them.

If we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we too will become courageous witnesses, loving disciples, and agents of peace in our families and in our community.