

This Week's Readings

First Reading: Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17.

Philip baptized the Samaritans. Peter and John laid their hands on them so that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

Second Reading: 1 Pet. 3: 15-18.

Jesus died but he was raised to life again in the Spirit.

Gospel: John 14: 15-21.

Christ promised the Spirit and revealed something of the richness and transforming power of his gift of love.



Points for Reflection

In today's **Gospel**, Jesus tells his disciples that he will ask the Father to send them an advocate, a lawyer. The original Greek word *paracle'tos* means defending advocate and consoler. Both meanings describe the role of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth.

The Evangelist John sees the life of Jesus and the community of disciples as a universal trial. The accusers are Satan and the unbelieving world. It appears on the surface that Jesus and his community lose the case. Brought before the Jewish and pagan authorities, Jesus is sentenced to death and subsequently dies on the cross. Without their Master, the disciples are adrift and become like orphans. But on the faith level, Jesus' death is the source of victory and salvation which he gives to humanity. With death comes the resurrection, and, with the resurrection, the gift of the Spirit: the giver of life.

The Spirit spells victory for the disciples. He becomes their defense lawyer. He will prove that the Devil and the sinful world are liars; instead of being proclaimed victors, they are utterly defeated. Jesus overcomes the prince of darkness. His followers have nothing to be afraid of, even if they suffer. The Spirit becomes the consoler of the community of believers. He strengthens their resolve to follow the teachings of Jesus and to persevere in loving and serving others.

The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (*Gaudium et Spes*) of Vatican II presents the continuing "historical" mission of the Holy Spirit: *"For theirs (Christ's followers) is a community composed of men and women, who, united in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, press onwards towards the kingdom of the Father and are bearers of a message of salvation intended for all men and women"* (n.1).

At the feast of Pentecost, two Sundays from now, the Holy Spirit will transform the disciples. They will cease to feel like fearful orphans. They will be "fired up" by the Spirit to announce Jesus' gift of salvation to peoples who come to Jerusalem from different parts of the world. Through the ages, this "other Consoler" is with us. He will remain with us until Jesus comes again to take us all with him.

Sacred Heart Church Sai Kung (E-mail: sacredheart@netvigator.com)

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Parish Priest: Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: carlotei@i-cable.com ; carlotei@gmail.com) Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Sr Mary Leung (helping on Sundays)	Confessions: Sundays before Mass and during the 7.45 am Mass Weekdays on call
Secretary: Miss Tse Choi Ping Office hours: Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 5.30pm Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 st Thursday of the month: 8.00 pm
Parish Council Chairlady: Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	

Kids' Corner

4/27/08 - John 14:15-21 *"I will not leave you orphans"*

Down

1. Jesus told the disciples to keep and observe the _____.
2. Jesus said, "I will not leave you _____."
3. In this Gospel passage, Jesus was speaking to His _____.



Across

4. The "advocate" Jesus was talking about is the Holy _____.
5. Jesus told the disciples that
He would ask the Father to send another _____.

