

## Homily by Fr. Anthony Davis

**JESUS, THE G.P.S. “How can we know the way?” “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me...”**

May 10, 2020

5th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 2:4-9; 18-19; John 14:1-12

In recent years, the “Global Positioning System”, i.e. the “G.P.S.” has become extremely popular. The GPS device knows your exact location on earth. You type into the GPS where you want to go, then the GPS talks to you in a voice that tells you each street to turn on, and exactly where to drive. People, like me, trust the voice on the GPS and dully follow it with “blind faith”. Indeed, as an ardent user of this instrument, I call it my “Guardian Angel” since it accurately and safely directs me to wherever I go.

In much the same way, today’s Gospel introduces Jesus as the Way to God; the Truth to be accepted, and the Life to be shared and lived. And so he assures us: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God. Have faith also in me...I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me...”

When adversity or trouble comes your way, does it make you lose hope or give into fear and despair, or does it press you closer to the Lord Jesus and to the strength and help he offers you? In the Old Testament, when the people of Israel became discouraged and grew weary during their 40 years in the wilderness, the Lord assured them that he would personally bring them safely into the promised land. “Be strong and steadfast; have no fear...It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you, he will not fail you or forsake you; do not fear or be dismayed.” (Deut. 31:6-8).

In Jn 15:1-8, Jesus also assures us, “...I am the vine you are the branches...If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you...” And so, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God. Have faith also in me...I am the way and the truth and the life...”(Gospel).

Each of us has problems in this life, and we want to know “the way” out of these problems. We’d like a GPS to show us “the way”, to our destination, to get from debt to financial freedom, from addiction to freedom, from discord to unity, etc. We want directions for the way out. We ask: “How can we know the way” out of our situation? (Jn 14:5).

Presently with the onslaught of this global pandemic, the whole world is frightened and confused. We feel vulnerable and defenseless, and our very survival as a community of Faith, as well as our individual security and safety, are in peril. It is in this dire moment that Jesus is calling us: (Mt.11:28-30) “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from

me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light”.

We want a roadmap and are struggling to find a lasting solution, but God has a better plan; He gives us directions in the form of a Person: Jesus, the Way (Jn 14:6). Jesus always knows our exact physical location on earth. Moreover, He knows exactly where we are spiritually, emotionally, and mentally. Finally, His plan for us is the perfect will of God since our ultimate destination in this life is to spend eternity with God in heaven!

Therefore, Jesus is the Way. Follow Him!!!