

HOMILY by Fr. Anthony Davis

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives...Be not afraid.”

May 26, 2019

6th Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29; Rv. 21:10-14, 22-23; Jn 14:23-29

These are great words of encouragement that our LORD Jesus Christ gives to his disciples and apostles, reminding them that, whatever happens, no matter how big the loss is, he will always be with them, to give them his consolation and blessing.

Yet in actual fact we know, especially in this day and age, that the peace and harmony our world offers us is very brief and momentary. The loyalties of persons constantly change, while the satisfaction that material belongings and human feelings provide fades away rapidly.

Today, we receive the homage/admiration of our friends and colleagues at the office, perhaps because we just received a promotion. But tomorrow, who knows, we might very well find ourselves jobless, alone, and abandoned, because we have to relinquish our position as Manager to a new person who is more qualified than us.

Today we enjoy good health, and sadly, tomorrow not. **Sometimes** it is about losing our hope in others because of their betrayal or abandonment; or sometimes it is about losing our self-esteem because those who support and help us do not appreciate us or help us anymore. Even the Church too, seems fragmented. We have our camps and cliques that separate along doctrinal and ethical fracture lines, causing a lot of anxiety and confusion among both the leadership and rank-and-file.

In short, there seems to be a lot of turmoil, and so there is no peace, even, in the Church. The gospel today, may well be speaking to all forms of fragmentation and tension. Despite all these, Jesus, consoles us, as he did to his disciples, with these assuring words: *“...My peace I give you. Not as the world gives, do I give it to you...Be not afraid.”*

Summary: So what kind of peace does Jesus offer? The peace of Christ is more than the absence of trouble. It includes everything which makes for our highest good. The world's approach to peace is avoidance of trouble and a refusal to face unpleasant things. However, Jesus offers the peace which conquers our fears and anxieties. Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less.

How then, can we attain the peace which the Lord Jesus offers us his followers? Through the gift and work of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, the Lord Jesus shows us how to yield our passions of anger, fear, and pride to him so we can receive his gift of peace.

The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and strengthens us with his gifts and supernatural virtues which enable us to live as wise and holy disciples of Christ.

Conclusion: Peace, indeed, is serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, simplicity of heart, the bond of love, the fellowship of charity. It removes hatred, settles wars, restrains wrath, tramples on pride, loves the humble, pacifies the discordant and makes enemies agree. For it is pleasing to everyone. It does not seek what belongs to another or consider anything as its own. It teaches people to love because it does not know how to get angry, or to extol itself or become inflated with pride. It is meek and humble to everyone, possessing rest and tranquility within itself.

This means that, when the peace of Christ is exercised by a Christian, it is brought to perfection by Christ. If anyone loves it, he will be an heir of God, while anyone who despises it rebels against Christ. And that's why Jesus left his peace to his followers as their inherited good, teaching them and saying, **"My peace I give to you, my peace I leave with you."**

Hence, anyone who has received this peace should keep it, and one who has destroyed it should look for it, while anyone who has lost it should seek it. For if anyone is not found with it, he will be disinherited by the Father and deprived of his inheritance.

Therefore, collecting all our faith and trust in God's promises, we can say that, only Christ can give us real and everlasting peace. And so he reiterates today, **"My peace I give to you, my peace I leave with you."**

May we leave here in the peace of Christ, knowing that no matter what ills the world might throw at us, Christ is forever present with us, sustaining us, guiding us, and loving us. AMEN!!!