**Homily for 6th Sunday of Easter**(5/26/2019)

Rev. Francis Kim

In surgery for a heart attack, a middle-aged woman had a vision of God and the Holy Spirit by her bedside. “Will I die?” she asked. God said, “No. You have 20 more years to live.” With 20 years to look forward to, she decided to make the best of it. So, since she was in the hospital, she got breast implants, liposuction, a tummy tuck, hair transplants, and collagen injections in her lips. She looked great!

The day she was discharged, she departed from the hospital with a swagger, crossed the street, and was immediately hit by a car and killed. Up in heaven, she saw God. “You said I had 20 more years to live,” she complained. “That’s true,” said God. “So, what happened to me?” she asked. Then, God answered, “I didn’t recognize you.”

God has a plan or purpose for every person, although many of us go through life without ever thinking about it. But, our lack of awareness doesn’t change the fact that God put each of us here for a purpose. We are not here by accident. We are here because God put us here. And, God has a specific plan for each of our lives.

So, don’t wonder through life without any purpose or direction, but pray and seek God’s will, and learn to follow Him.

It has been six weeks since we celebrated our Lord’s Resurrection, but the story did not end there. For the past six weeks, we have walked with the Risen Lord, and next week we will celebrate His Ascension into heaven.

His Ascension obviously marked the end of His earthly life. But, we never walk alone. Jesus continues to be present to us in all times and all places by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus also is present to us through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. He gives us the gift of Himself, Body, Blood, and Divinity, that we might grow in faith, hope, and love.

Today, in the Gospel, we are reminded the last farewell discourse of Jesus at the Last Supper. When they heard their Master would leave them, the disciples were so afraid, and they had no idea what they would do next.

Then, Jesus told them, “Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” And, He promised them, “The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything.” So, they would never be alone. Then, Jesus gave them peace. “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.”

Here, Jesus gives us two great gifts: peace and the Holy Spirit. And, Jesus said that to receive these gifts, there is a condition: we must keep God’s word. He says, “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him.” To keep God’s word means to live as Jesus taught us and to follow His will.

Certainly, we try to do that. We always try to keep our faith and follow His will. But, we know, sometimes, we fail. It is not easy to keep His word in our daily lives. We, at times, deny Him as Peter did. We, at times, doubt Him as Thomas did. We, at times, panic and flee from Him as all the disciples did.

We are not strong enough. We are not holy. We are not perfect. We are just human being. But, Jesus knows our human weaknesses.

So, Jesus promises that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to help us, to take care of us, to be with us. He calls the Holy Spirit as the Advocate.

The Holy Spirit guides our faith, keeps us to live in His love, and continues to reveal God to us.

As Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, is always with us and continues to guide our Church and our personal journey to God. So, do not hesitate to open your hearts to the Holy Spirit, and say, “Come, Holy Spirit!”

In abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, Jesus gives us another gift. He says, “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.” Jesus says many times, “Do not afraid. Peace be with you.”

Today, in His last farewell discourse, Jesus gives us wonderful gifts: the Holy Spirit and eternal peace.

When we love Jesus and keep His words, then we will receive the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit flow into our lives, we can find and experience the true peace and happiness. Nothing can take us from the peace and joy of Jesus Christ. No sorrow or grief, no danger, no suffering can make it less.

This peace is deep knowing that God is with us always; this peace is our everlasting gift from God!