

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter “A” Cycle May 14, 2017**

**There is a story told about a visiting priest who was in an unfamiliar town to preach a parish mission. He wanted to mail a postcard to friends back home and ventured out to find a post office. He spotted a teenage boy on a bike and asked him directions to the nearest post office. After the boy directed him, the priest thanked him and invited him to come to Church that evening and promised that he would show him the way to heaven. The boy responded: “I don’t think so, you don’t even know your way to the post office!”**

**The way to heaven and to God is not on any map or GPS and cannot be accessed on “mapquest.” It is found only by following Jesus Christ as his committed disciple, as we hear in today’s Gospel from St. John.**

**This portion of St. John’s Gospel gives us Jesus’ instructions to his apostles and disciples as he is about to complete his earthly ministry. He first reassures them: “do not let your hearts be troubled. . . have faith in me . . . I am going to prepare a place for you . . . where I am going, you know the way.”**

**The apostle Thomas is puzzled. In speaking for the rest, he asks Jesus: “how can we know the way,” Jesus clearly states that he is the way, as well as the truth and the life and that no one comes to his heavenly Father except through him. Interestingly, one of the names for the early Church community was the “way,” i.e. those following Jesus, the “Way” to God.**

**To follow Jesus means for all disciples of every time to listen to his Word, his teachings, and to put them into practice. It means to be in touch with him through prayer. It means to gratefully and humbly receive and celebrate his sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist. To follow Jesus’ way means to love and serve each other as he showed us in a self-sacrificing manner. It means to share each other’s joys, triumphs, burdens, and sorrows.**

**The 2<sup>nd</sup> apostle presented in today's Gospel is Philip. He, like Thomas, is also puzzled and asks Jesus to show them God the Father. With a hint of impatience, Jesus explains to Philip and the others that whoever sees him has seen the Father.**

**Jesus is not only the way to the Father; he is also the one who reveals, makes known the Father. He is the Eternal Word or expression of God who has become human in every way like us, except for sin.**

**If we want to know God, we must come to know Jesus. Sometimes we wonder if God knows what our life is about. Does he know by experience about the joys, the sorrows, the challenges of life, our disappointments, our sicknesses, our hurts, pains and aches, our pleasures, our weaknesses, etc?**

**To answer these questions, we look to the life of Jesus and the answer is obvious. God cared enough for us and loved us enough to humble himself to become like us. He did this by becoming human in Jesus in order to raise us up to share in some way through grace in his divine nature.**

**Beside Jesus who is the major way to God, there are others who point out the way because they follow Jesus closely. Dedicated and caring mothers are among these special people who guide us on the way to God. We honor and pray for them in a special way today. May they continue to show us the way to God.**

**Fortified and encouraged by our worship today at Mass, may we continue to be faithful followers of Jesus our way to God and eternal life.**