

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

May 17, 2020 • 6th Sunday of Easter • John 14:15-21

An Advocate for Life

Jesus continues his last discourse with his disciples. He tells them (and us) if they love him and observe his commandments, the Father will give them another advocate, the Spirit of truth. Jesus tells them he will be leaving them soon but they will not be left orphaned.

The catechism tells us that God is truth. In fact, God is the only absolute truth. All other truth is relative. Truth is limited and conditioned by all sorts of things, including physicality, relativity, time, and culture. Three people can witness an accident and truthfully testify to seemingly contradictory statements. Their truth can be dictated by the where, when, and how of their relationship to the incident. It can be colored by personal viewpoints (prejudice, associations with other life experiences) or by personal limitations (eyesight, height). Only God is absolute truth, because only God is limitless.

We know that even church truths change. We all remember that Galileo was considered a heretic because he proposed that the sun did not revolve around the earth. If the church is open to admitting limitations in its belief system, we should be as well. As new ideas of faith or church or even God challenge us, we need to constantly pray to remain in the truth, reminding ourselves that the one and only absolute is God.

Life's journey is about learning and growing, constantly filtering the truth as we see it through the witness of the church and our own ever-expanding experiences. In John 18:37, Jesus tells us that he came into the world "to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." It is in allowing Christ to live in us and bowing to our own limitations that the Spirit of truth can reign in our hearts.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Ask family members to talk about how they see or imagine God. Adults and teens can talk about how their image of God has changed over the years.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

How has your image of God changed through the years? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?