

Reflection for the 6th Sunday of Easter

On April 12, 2020 we as a people were blessed to celebrate Easter Sunday, and be reminded of the love that God the Son has for us that he laid down His life for us so that we could look forward to eternal salvation. Christ's death and resurrection has forever changed the world and our relationship with our God. The following Sunday we as a people celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday, and the gift that Jesus Christ has given the world through Saint Faustina, a reminder of His merciful love that is forgiving and transforming. The Third Sunday of Easter we were blessed to have the Gospel Reading "*Road to Emmaus.*" This Gospel reading informs us that Jesus is there for us in so many ways in our lives but especially in the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharist. On the following Sunday we had Good Shepherd Sunday, in all three of the Gospel Readings for the three Liturgical years the readings are all taken from the Gospel of John chapter 10 and each one of the readings are focused on Jesus the Good Shepherd. Jesus, the Good Shepherd is there to guide us and help us in our journey of faith in this world and in the next. This year the Fifth Sunday of Easter is also Mother's Day, the reading this Sunday taken from Gospel of John presents us with a caring Jesus who has gone to make a dwelling place for us in heaven. We not only have Jesus who is caring and loving but we also have our Mothers, families and friends looking out for us.

The weeks that have led us to this Sunday the Sixth Sunday of Easter in the year 2020 have presented us with a loving and supportive God that reaches out to us in all time and space. But our God has given us more than only His love and support, He has provided us with the Sacraments of our faith, a faith community, and a loving family. This Sunday with a reading taken from the Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 15 thru 21, we are provided with a time of respite. For following this Sunday, we have the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, Jesus ascending to His Father and our Father. Then the next Sunday is Pentecost Sunday the coming of the Holy Spirit, the birth of the Church. So this Sunday we have a Gospel reading that is reminding us of the love of God, which has been demonstrated to us over the last five Sundays, and we are reminded that in the next two Sundays we are presented with God's salvific plan unfolding before our eyes.

Just as we have Gaudete Sunday in Advent and Laetare Sunday in Lent, which are a time of respite from the journey of Advent and of Lent so this Sixth Sunday of this Easter Season can and should also be seen as a time of respite. A moment to step back from the journey of the Season of Easter to take stock in what has unfolded and prepare for what is to come. The Easter Season is unlike Advent and Lent that are all about preparing, in the case of Advent for the birth of Jesus and in the case of Lent for the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is full of life changing moments, one Sunday after another. But this Sunday we are blessed with the opportunity to have a moment to reflect on the journey that we are on in this Season of Easter, before we embrace the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost Sunday. May this Sunday provide us with a respite but also a richness that is found in embracing and following our Lord. The Season of Easter can be such a busy time that it seems like we are running from one joy to the next with little time to allow the events of the Season to transform who we are. May this Sunday provide us with the moment, the opportunity to step back, to reflect, to allow the events and joy of this Season to transform us.