



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – MAY 10, 2026

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21

Thanks for being here. Happy Mother's Day.

The gospel today continues the Lord's words to the apostles at the Last Supper. So, as he faces his death, these words carry a lot of weight for them and for us.

We should put ourselves in that room. Let's feel the importance of these words of Jesus. Have you ever been in such a situation?

I would suggest his command to keep his commandments of love raises the bar from being a nice person to crucifixion; the ultimate definition of love. His words are with Mt. Calvary in the background.

We are tested everyday by his words. To use a school comparison; Love is the only subject where the final exam happens daily: at home, at school, at work, in traffic, etc. In today's Gospel, Jesus moves us from comfort to obedience — and calls friendship the new form of holiness. His call to love is absolute.

Jesus gives us the command: "Remain in My love." Not "earn it," not "chase it," but "remain." The greatest spiritual struggle isn't finding God's love — it's staying rooted in it when life tries to pull us away. We live in a world that constantly measures and compares. We think love is conditional — based on success, popularity, beauty, or behavior. But divine love isn't based on such things; it's a gift to each one of us. The challenge isn't to make ourselves lovable; it's to believe we already are. That is Philip's message to the people of Samaria in our first reading.

It's like on this Mother's Day, you, as mom, know you always love your children, even if you get upset at them occasionally. You still love them. I never doubted my mom's love for me. I believe she still loves me from heaven, just as your departed mothers do.

We should remember the Lord's commandments aren't about restrictions; they're about alignment. We are to live as the Lord lives — the way a branch stays connected to the vine. We are to stay connected by the way we live.

It's not always easy to do that.

However, the Gospel states, the Lord sends us an Advocate – the Holy Spirit – to help us.

Let's keep in touch with that Advocate.

That Advocate helped Jesus as he left the Last Supper and headed to the crucifixion for all of us.

That Advocate will help us as well.

Thanks for listening.

Prayer: The Holy Spirit Prayer – our Advocate