

GOSPEL

John 10:27-30

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him
and make our home with him.
Those who do not love me do not keep my words.
And my word is not my own:
it is the word of the one who sent me.
I have said these things to you
while still with you;
but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you everything
and remind you of all I have said to you.
Peace I bequeath to you,
my own peace I give you,
a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to
you.
Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.
You heard me say:
I am going away, and shall return.
If you loved me you would have been glad to
know that I am going to the Father,
for the Father is greater than I.
I have told you this now before it happens,
so that when it does happen you may believe.'

REFLECTION OF POPE LEO XIV

25 May 2025

Dear brothers and sisters, happy Sunday!
I am still at the beginning of my ministry among
you. Before all else, I would like to thank you
for your demonstration of affection and ask you
to keep supporting me with your prayers and
closeness.

In whatever the Lord calls us to do, in both our
daily lives and our journey of faith, there are
times when we feel inadequate. Yet this Sunday's
Gospel (cf. Jn 14:23-29) tells us not to rely on our
own abilities but on the mercy of the Lord who has
chosen us, and to be certain that the Holy Spirit
guides us and teaches us all things.

On the eve of the Master's death, the Apostles,
in their bewilderment and distress, wondered
how they were to continue to bear witness to the
kingdom of God. Jesus then spoke to them of
the gift of the Holy Spirit. He made this wonderful
promise: "Those who love me will keep my word,
and my Father will love them, and we will come to
them and make our home with them" (v. 23).

In this way, Jesus freed the disciples from their
anxiety, telling them: "Do not let your hearts be
troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (v. 27). For
if we remain in his love, he comes to dwell in us
and our life will become a temple of God. His love
enlightens us, influences the way we think and
act, spreads outwards to others and embraces
every situation in our lives.

This dwelling of God within us, brothers and
sisters, is precisely the gift of the Holy Spirit,
who takes us by the hand and enables us to
experience God's presence and closeness amid
our daily lives, for he makes us his home.

It is wonderful to think that, when we consider
our individual calling, the situations we encounter
and the people entrusted to our care, our
commitments and responsibilities, and our service
in the Church, each of us can say with confidence:
"Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed
of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell
within me. He accompanies me with his Spirit; he
enlightens me and makes me an instrument of his
love for others, for society and for the world."

Dear friends, on the basis of that promise, let us
walk in the joy born of faith, in order to become a
holy temple of the Lord. Let us resolve to bring his
love everywhere, never forgetting that each of our
sisters and brothers is a dwelling place of God and
that his presence is manifested above all in the
little ones, in the poor and the suffering, who ask
us to be thoughtful and compassionate Christians.

And let us entrust ourselves to the intercession of
Mary Most Holy. By the power of the Holy Spirit,
she became "a dwelling-place consecrated to
God." With her, may we too come to know the joy
of welcoming the Lord into our lives and of being
signs and instruments of his love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

What stood out to you from the Gospel or Reflection/Homily?



Head: "Despite my weakness, the Lord is not ashamed of my humanity. Instead, he comes to dwell within me." What does this mean to you?



Heart: Do you feel like you are a "temple of God"? Why or why not?



Hands: What does it mean practically to not rely on own abilities but on the mercy of God? How would that change the way we live?

PRAYER

Spend some time in prayer with one another:

1. Conscious of what has just been shared, members briefly name/ describe their prayer needs.
2. Intentionally call on the Holy Spirit to be present (e.g. "Come Holy Spirit, please be present as we pray")
3. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God.
4. Pray for each others' prayer needs. Where appropriate, you may like to encourage the group to place a hand on the shoulder of the individual that you are currently praying for.
5. Conclude your prayer time with another prayer of praise, perhaps praying the 'Glory Be'.