LIVING FAITH
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (ASCENSION)

ROMAN CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. JOHN'S

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

John 17:1-11

After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL

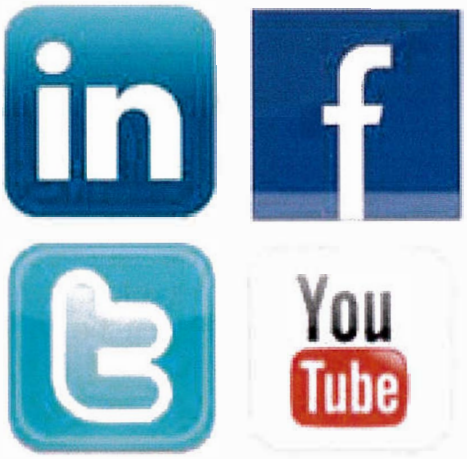
Today, the Gospel offers us the wonderful story of how, 40 days after His Resurrection, Jesus returned home to His Father. How would you feel? The disciples were afraid, and ran back to the Upper Room, to the place where they had celebrated the Last Supper with Jesus, the place where they had seen Him after His Resurrection, the place where he had shown them the wounds in His hands and His sides, and said to Thomas, "Doubt no longer, but believe."

But Jesus did not leave them alone. He promised to send His Holy Spirit to be with them, to strengthen and guide them. The disciples went back to the Upper Room and hoped and prayed that Hid words would be true, that the Spirit would come.

Jesus does not leave you alone, either. You have Jesus' word that He will never, ever leave you alone. Jesus is with you, within you, beside you. Look around you. The signs are everywhere, if only we have eyes to see.

May 28 World Communications Day

Today, Catholics are invited to reflect upon the media of social communication and how these influence our lives.



BEING SAFE
IN OUR DIGITAL WORLD
FAMILY RESOURCES

Parents are the primary educators of their children. With this the Church recognizes the tremendous responsibility this role undertakes, especially in today's environment. The internet can be a dangerous place if not approached in a safe way. With the rapid changes taking place with technology and the era of instant communication, parents and families are challenged with keeping young people safe and, at the same time, teaching skills for the appropriate use of technology and digital devices.

A family activity for this week: Have a good dialogue with family members about approprite and safe use of social media. Here are excellent sites to review this week to help users be safe using technology.

www.cybertip.ca

www.thinkuknow.com

www.deal.org

www.bewebaware.ca/

www.kidshelpphone.ca

www.textED.ca

YOU ASKED...

- *Rev. Tony Bidgood, CSsR*

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

We used to hear about "Extreme Unction." What is this Sacrament called today?

Today, we refer to "The Sacrament of the Sick." We no longer view this as "the last Sacrament, but rather as a Sacrament of healing and reconciliation.

What does the Church teach about this Sacrament?

The Sacrament of Anointing is a place of encounter. In the moment of the sacrament, the anointed one encounters Christ, and thus it is sacred space for a holy encounter. As one of the sacraments of healing (Sacrament of Reconciliation is the other), it is a sacrament that beings tremendous comfort to those who are sick. I have always been drawn to the image of Christ as the companion on the road of our lives, reminiscent of the story of the Road to Emmaus from Luke's Gospel. The Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is a beautiful example of the companionship that Christ offers. To be anointed is to feel that Christ, and the faith community of the Church comes alongside the sick person to comfort, to companion and to heal.

The Sacrament of Anointing affirms that Christ meets us where we are. We like to think of Christ as being present in beautiful churches and inspiring liturgies. While that is true, Christ also comes to us fully in places where we may not always expect: in operating rooms, in day surgery preparation rooms, at the bedside on units, in the ICU, and in our homes just to name a few. Christ comes in the midst of the sounds of ventilators and heart monitors, the smells of the hospital, the stunned silence of a family that hears sudden bad news in the Emergency room, the cries of those who grieve the joy of the maternity ward, and in the corridors of busy hospitals.

The Sacrament of Anointing is for healing, but that does not make it 'magical', nor does it mean that it works miracles. While it can be the means of a miraculous healing (God's grace can bring such miracles about), the sacrament itself speaks of healing for both body and soul. I am reminded one time of a Redemptorist priest who suffered from cancer and prayed often for a cure. After a pilgrimage during which he was anointed, he came back saying that while he was not cured, he had been healed. For him his healing was peacefulness and acceptance that made the last months of his life serene and beautiful.

Cornerstone Housing Society

L'ARCHE

Cornerstone Housing Society, *St. John's NL, has officially received L'ARCHE PROJECT status. We will be moving forward toward our goal of creating a L'Arche Community in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador - homes where our core members are part of a community of dedicated and caring people who regard them and treat them as equals.*

Jean Vanier, Founder of L'Arche

Regular Events

Monthly Gathering at Rotary Park Chalet
Jam Circle – music for all
Monthly Walks
Town-hall-style meeting
Other activities as announced

ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US

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Our Canada Revenue Agency Charitable Registration Number is 81025 5042 RR0001.

Thank you to Sr. Dianne Smythe for information about Cornerstone Housing and L'Arche