

FR.TK.REFLECTIONS 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR.A.2023.

KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS:

Last Sunday in the Acts of the Apostles(Acts.6:1-7)we had the institution of the ministry of Diaconate.Seven men were chosen to take care for the needs of the poor so that the apostles could devote their time to ***teaching,preaching and prayer.***

Eventually the Deacons did more than taking care of the poor,some of them were extraordinary convincing preachers,like **Stephen the first Martyr(Act 7:60) Philip** became a **powerful healer and preacher and Baptized so many people in Samaria(Act.8:7).**thus making the community to grow.

In the Gospel Jesus is talking to his apostles during last supper preparing them for the great **shock and trauma**,they would go through when he would be arrested and crucified.He was preparing them that He would leave for a while yet assuring them the fact that he is going to prepare a place for them and he would come back for them so that where he is,they will also be there.He is assuring them that He is not going to leave them like **Orphans**.He would give them a **paraclete,helper,one who would support them,stand up for, with and by them,an advocate,comforter,intercession helper and mediator.** **Definitely he was referring to the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit is not replacing Jesus rather he would help us to know that Jesus has not left us.In his love then he gave us the Holy Spirit to be with us yet he lives in us **in his word in the scriptures,in the praying community**(where two or three are gathered in my name,I will be in their midst(Mat.18:20),He is present whenever we **do works of mercy and charity**(whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters you do it unto me(Mt.25:40) **He is present in all sacraments especially Eucharist(This is my Body,this is My Blood)Jesus is with us.**

He remains with us as he did to his Apostles,he is doing this to us out of **love for us**.He is asking us for Love in return,**Love of God and our Neighbour.**

The test for our true love of Jesus is to keep his commandment ***if you love me you will keep my commandments(Jn.14:15)*** we must always stay close and be united with him and know that **he cares and loves us hence we must do the same.**

We are called to keep his rule not only the Ten Commandments but also the basics of human life. He is very much aware the institution the church he established is not of **angels neither is it in heaven, it is of weak human being in this violent chaotic world full of challenges and temptations.** It needs regulations on how to deal with one another the **Dos and the Don'ts of life.** He was talking of **values and attitudes towards God and one another.** like **Do not return evil for evil, do not judge your Neighbour, do not condemn, do not bother about clothing, food or drink, do not store for yourselves treasures here on earth, do not give up, do not worry, trust me I will be with you always.** The dos are very positive dealings of who we ought to be, **be the light of the world, be the salt of the earth, give and you will receive abundantly forgive those who wrong you, feed the hungry, cloth the naked, accomodate the homeless and love one another as I have loved you(Jn.14:34).**

Fulfilling all the above is preparation for the Paraclete to **assist, strengthen and energize us to keep the commandments.**

Let us today open our **minds, soul to welcome Jesus into our way of life that he may make a home in us, if then Jesus will be on our side what will we be scared of!**

**Dedicated to ALL MOTHERS LIVING AND DEAD FOR LOVING US:
HAPPY MOTHERS DAY.**