

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 2022.

CRISES, CONFLICTS, AND RESOLUTION:

Crises and conflicts are very common words in our present day media age. They are everywhere,...on the radio, TV, pulpit, and all over social media.

There are many crises in our world today, the price of **gas and cost of oil...different political, economic, social, and personal issues... medical care, spiritual needs, along with food and water shortages, and international crises**, just to name a few difficulties **facing our world today**. Most of these are caused by the selfishness of some individuals caring only about themselves and their own benefits and gains.

Our readings today deal with a religious crisis in the early Church community of believers.

The first reading from the Acts of the Apostles is talking of an acute **cultural crisis** which confronted the disciples with regards to the **Gentiles converts to Christianity**. What is required of them? Should they follow Jewish traditions as Christians? The very root of the crisis they had to face and also solve was how they as disciples should keep **unity and peace** between the Jewish and Gentile converts. The apostles arranged a meeting to address the crisis and reach a solution. This included the missionaries Paul and Barnabas, apostles, and representatives to the Gentiles.

The same is faced today by some missionaries who attempt to disregard the traditions and culture of the people they are evangelizing. Some consider these traditions and culture as old fashioned, and this is precisely where they too miss the point... by disregarding the culture as opposed to **inculturation**.

It is not a surprise to see people on both ends,...being a Christian on Sunday, but during the week being a traditionalist, turning to traditional religion to seek solutions which have not been addressed by Christianity. Some even become violent towards Christianity because of missing this point. The crisis still continues even today in Christianity throughout the world, while the issue remains,... what are we going to do about it? How do we intermarry and harmonize culture and traditions with the teaching of Christ, without losing and diluting our faith.

In the Gospel today, Jesus is preparing the disciples for the crisis of His **passion and His return to the Father**. We too should put in our minds this farewell address of Jesus. He is **preparing and equipping them (and us) for the crisis of His departure**.

Christ is equipping all with **three basic tools to handle** crises on our journey.

1*HIS WORD-*Anyone who loves me will be true to my word (Jn. 14:23).*

2*HOLY SPIRIT-*The Advocate whom the father will send in my name, will instruct you in everything (Jn 14.26).* He will dwell in you. He is the guiding **radar and compass of our moral life**.

What a great consolation that we are not to feel alone. Christ

will be with us not only in **word, but in sacraments, where two or three are gathered also He will dwell in us.**

3*HIS PEACE-*The third equipment the lord is providing us is peace be with you I give you my peace not the peace the world do give you (Jn 14:26).* The peace of Christ doesn't mean absence of crisis and conflict, but means **tranquility of order within us.** The peace the world gives can easily be destroyed by a **single bullet, bomb, terrorist, or single random act of selfishness in the world,** but Christ peace is eternal.

He gives His word for our **Mind,** His Holy Spirit for our **Heart,** and his peace for our **Soul.**

We too must participate in creating, uniting, and bringing the peace of Christ to our world, which is fragmented in pieces (without Him) causing crises in the world.

(No Jesus-No Peace... Know Jesus-Know Peace...)

BE A CHANNEL OF PEACE TO A PERSON TODAY.