

Thoughts from my road trip: My curly hair is returning.

E-mailing and phoning my friends was not as fulfilling as seeing them and hugging them. Being with them where they were at!

Seeing Fred: I heard about his leg being amputated but being there when he had to put on and take off his leg gave me a better understanding about what he was going through.

I apply this to the Lord's call to "prepare to receive the ADVOCATE, that he promised to send. To actually be present to my friend is so different from just hearing about him.

Today we hear His promise that He will not abandon His disciples. He will go away and the world will no longer see Him but His disciples will still see Him by the power of the Holy Spirit. They would not be able to see Him without the help of the Holy Spirit of God.

We see in the first reading how important it is that the new Christians receive the Holy Spirit. Even though they expressed the GREAT JOY of the newly baptized, Peter and John went to them to lay their hands on them in order that they would receive, in a very definite way, the Holy Spirit. We need to live by the Holy Spirit of God.

Next week we will read about His final instructions and the promise again that He will be with them until the end of the age. When the Apostles see the Lord Jesus ascend into heaven, they are full of doubt. But once again He assures them that He will be with them until the end of the age.

And the following week we will read about the Holy Spirit descending down upon those gathered in one place. They were instructed to stay together and pray.

Here at St Thomas More Parish, we are blessed to have our own real Pentecost where the Holy Spirit will show up to make us aware that we have an advocate with the Father who will guide our every step. When the Holy Spirit instructs us, we will become aware of the life that the Father wishes for all of His creation. For the Spirit knows us better than we know ourselves. It is the Spirit that teaches us to recognize the things in our lives that matter; like the people in our lives that need forgiveness from us. The people in our lives that need our personal care. It is the Spirit that also brings the grace of God into our lives that give us the courage to do what we need to do to please God in His kingdom.

There are two teams of men and women who have been meeting to pray and prepare that special room where the Holy Spirit will be available, in a real way, to commune with those present on the "Christ Renews His Parish" weekends. It is an opportunity of a lifetime. You are invited to set aside 30 hours on a weekend (that includes sleeping hours) in order to make yourself present to the Holy Spirit of God. You will hear the Spirit talking to your heart without distractions.

I first read the second reading from Peter shortly after I made my “Christ Renews His Parish” weekend. I had a new joy in my heart and I hoped that it showed.

ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE AN EXPLANATION FOR YOUR HOPE AND JOY

I made up mind then and there to share “Christ Renews His Parish” with those who would ask and even those who didn’t ask.

Our next weekends are:

NEXT WEEKEND – MAY 31ST AND JUNE 1ST is our WOMEN’S WEEKEND

THE FOLLOWING WEEKEND – JUNE 7TH and 8TH

Do yourself a big favor and sign up to make a “Christ Renews His Parish” weekend at the tables outside of Mass on the patio.

Ask yourself this simple question: would you like to read the Gospel the next two weekends at Mass about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or would you like to experience it? Would you like to feel that hug from God or just read about it?