

# Breaking Open The Word 2016



## **May 15, 2016 - Pentecost Sunday - Mass during the Day Lectionary: 63 Gospel JN 20:19-23**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

### **JN 14:15-16, 23B-26**

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always. "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

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**Spiritual Reflection:** I was once listening to a news show in which people were debating how the United States handled different situations around the world. One person complained that the United States only knows how to respond to situations with force and criticized the government for sending an aircraft carrier to some part of the world that suffered a natural disaster. The second person informed the first person that an aircraft carrier had more than one purpose and that it was in many ways its own floating city with its own power station and most importantly water purifying machines. He explained that the US sent the aircraft carrier to the place of the disaster not to terrify others but rather to give them clean drinking water. Sometimes I wonder if we think God is so big that we forget that He came to share His love (Holy Spirit) and to forgive our sins.

### **Spiritual Questions:**

1. Who is the Holy Spirit to you?
2. What does the Holy Spirit do for you?
3. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
4. Why is the Holy Spirit linked to God's mercy?
5. Are you big enough to forgive others?