

## **Homily – Tuesday of the First Week of Lent Mass with 5<sup>th</sup> Graders – February 28, 2023**

I am sure your teachers are very insistent on the importance of paying attention, right? Let's see if you are paying attention. Can anyone tell me the name of the book of the Bible from which the first reading was taken? ... That's right, Isaiah. The reading tells us that God's word works more or less like the water cycle. I am sure you know the steps of the water cycle: evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. The rain and snow come down and make the earth fertile and fruitful, "giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats..." The Lord says that his word goes forth from his mouth. It shall not return to Him void, but shall do His will, achieving the end for which He sent it.

St. John the Evangelist tells us that the Word of God is Jesus himself. He says that all things came to be through God's Word. "What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1:3-5). For a word to be heard, it needs a voice, right? If Jesus is the Word, who do you think is God's voice? ... The Holy Spirit!

It was the Holy Spirit who came upon Mary and made Jesus present in the flesh in her womb. After the Lord's Ascension into heaven, Jesus and the Father sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to establish the Church. The Holy Spirit makes the Church, truly, the Body of Christ. By the imposition of hands by a bishop in the sacrament of Holy Orders, bishops and priests were made signs of

the communion of the Church. In this communion, the Church celebrates the sacraments, making Christ present through the work of the Holy Spirit. The assembly, led by a bishop or a priest to celebrate Mass, represents the whole Church in the memorial of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, just as he established it at the Last Supper. The Holy Spirit makes Jesus present in the world, also in you and through you.

So, when you lend your voice to the Church during Mass, you really are lending your voice to the Holy Spirit, who makes Jesus present in you and through you. When you say the Our Father, and every time you pray in the name of Jesus, the Holy Spirit makes Him present. The Holy Spirit is the Love between the Father and the Son, and Pope Francis has said that “Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.” So, every time you do with love what you are supposed to, every time you do something good for anyone else, it is an impulse of the Holy Spirit who is making you part of the cycle of God’s Word, the cycle of God’s own love. So, pay attention to the Holy Spirit.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, help us follow your example in paying attention to the Holy Spirit, who is the teacher of teachers.