

## **Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for May 21, 2017**

**Renewing the Priesthood:** At any given Sunday Mass we are likely to find several young men and women called to consider priesthood or religious life. Pray that you may recognize them. There are a few members of our parish that I know are doing just that. They tell me that they recognize the Spirit in one or another of our young people. There are times when I am sitting in the sanctuary and I see it myself. The simple presence of the Holy Spirit upon one or another member of the parish. No, this does not mean that that person is called to priesthood or to religious life. The Spirit rests upon all of us, calls all of us to ministry. It does mean that the Spirit is present right now at this moment upon this person and speaking to us about them. Our duty is simply to listen, and be open and to the Spirit's voice.

**Readings for next week:** Acts 1:1-14; Ephesians 1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

**Reflection:** Jesus' last words seem contradictory. Just before he ascends into heaven He says, "Know that I am with you always, until the end of the world." Nevertheless, the truth of His words is evident, both in the lives of the apostles and in the continuing life of Christ. Returning to Jerusalem, the apostles devote themselves to prayer, community and service. Returning to heaven, Christ introduces us to the Father, encouraging Him to accept us as His children in the same way and for the same reasons as He accepts Christ. Jesus works, as He has always worked, for the reconciliation of God and His people. We share a parallel role. Each of us is commissioned to be reconciled with others and to bring others to God, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

1. Consider things shared with someone you love. How does sharing bring you closer together?

2. Consider things you share with Jesus. Name other ways that you would like to share.

**Prayer:** Jesus, we stand at the foot of your ascension, awe-struck by the glory you share with us. Ascend, not only into heaven, but into every part of our lives. Make your presence known, through us and to us.