

## Easter7-B5 Homily by Fr. Gabor

This Sunday is called Communication Sunday, and this year we focus on how we communicate or witness to God. If you have watched Bishop Barron's Catholicism DVDs over the past few years at our Faith & Food & Film nights you remember how powerfully these films communicated the Church's faith in God and her teaching about God. In his book called 'To Light a fire on earth' he reveals the secret ingredients of a powerful communication of Catholicism, which are *beauty, goodness, simplicity and truth*. In other word if you put across the truth of the Catholic faith in simple, understandable way and you use beautiful images of the faith, and in a way which tells the hearer that it is good to be a Catholic your communication of Catholicism will be powerful. Why? Because beauty, goodness, simplicity and truth are the main characteristics of God himself. This comes across Bishop Robert Barron's DVD series and this is why these films are so powerful.

The question is how we communicate God. It is one thing to watch a DVD or any inspiring film, and it is another question how it affects your communication of God's living presence in your life. Pope Francis in his book 'The joy of the Gospel' remarks that after a Mass sometimes we Catholics look like as if we had been to a funeral, because we don't always appreciate the beauty and truth that Mass communicates to us. He basically encourages us to rediscover the beauty, truth and goodness of being a Catholic, and that Jesus walks with us in daily life, and he encourages us to communicate these with joy and enthusiasm through words and actions. That attracts people and perhaps makes them curious about where it all comes from.

St. John in his first letter, which we read today, describes God as Love. God as Love is beautiful, good, simple and true. Such a God pours himself out into us through the Holy Spirit and lifts us out of sadness, depression, sin and darkness and fills us with enthusiasm and the desire to give witness to His living presence. Even just feeling

loved by someone else that in itself can make you feel good and energised to do good, and it is even better when you realise how much God loves you. When married couples and friends show such love to each other they communicate God's love in a powerful way. It is an enjoyable and life changing experience to share such a love with someone else, and that love is not necessarily the exclusive form of love, which is only the vocation of married couples. It is simply a love that unites people.

In the Gospel reading Jesus prays that the disciples of his time, and of all times, like ours, may be one like He and the Father are one. The love that is between them is the Holy Spirit; in other words Jesus prays that the Holy Spirit, the love of the Father and the Son, may feel their hearts and minds.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, which we celebrated last Thursday, He promised to send the Holy Spirit, who will unite the disciples in His love. He will consecrate them in the truth, which means He will purify their minds and hearts from all error by the truth; He will set them free from anything that separates them from God and one another. There are so many misunderstandings even between church members that can escalate into animosity. These misunderstandings distort the truth about the intentions of each other and can lead to disunity and even hatred. So let's seek unity through dialogue, or at least by talking to each other and pray that the Holy Spirit will reveal the truth in its simplicity and will make us realise how good it is to be part of the family of the Church, so that when we go home we will take God's mercy, love and joy with us in our hearts. That is what we are eventually called to communicate to the world outside.