

HOMILY FOR THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

1. LOVE /HATE relationship with change
 - a. Too little change and we get bored, too much we feel insecure
 - b. Where that line is will vary from person to person, or change in some areas may be comfortable, in others not so much
2. Think of the graduating seniors
 - a. Leaving home, school and friends they know, for new lifestyle
 - b. Some might have great enthusiasm, others a lot of anxiety
3. Jesus today is preparing His disciples for a major change
 - a. They have given their life to Him for several years
 - b. Even stuck with Him when crowds began to leave Him when Jesus spoke about needing to eat His flesh and drink His blood
 - c. Jesus at a low point had asked His disciples, do you want to leave too
 - i. Peter has answered where can we go, you have the words of eternal life
 - d. Though they often did not get what He was saying, they did not give up on Him
 - e. Now they are in Jerusalem, clear that there is a lot of tension between the Jesus and the leaders of Israel
 - i. Roman authorities were probably also looking sideways at Jesus, is he provoking unrest, last thing Romans want started
4. Jesus then says probably the scariest words, you could hear from a revered leader
 - a. Starts out by saying, don't worry; hear this, know there is something to worry about
 - i. Your trust God, trust me
 - ii. the disciples are wondering, what are you talking about? what is going to happen?
 - b. Jesus like a good story-teller uses images to try to get across his meaning
 - i. Could have said, I am going to be killed, but I will rise again
 1. They would probably have thought he was delusional plus that would have missed the point of his willingness to accept death by confronting the authorities
 - ii. He uses the image, I am going to prepare a place for you in my Father's house
 - iii. I will come back so that you will be with me
 1. Jesus is trying to emphasize this is not just about Himself, He will die, and rise for His followers
5. As the passage continues, it is clear Jesus is talking about a change, that the disciples do not want to face
 - a. They are confused, perplexed not understanding at all what Jesus is saying
 - b. Even say they are in denial, they do not want to believe that Jesus will be taken from them. Fear what will happen to them

- c. Jesus is trying to get them to recognize what He sees but also to give them confidence that His death will not be the end of His work
 - d. He goes on to tell them, you know the way
 - e. Thomas: we do not know where you are going how can we know the way
6. Jesus response: look I am the way, I am the truth, I am life
- a. I am not just some prophet, I am bringing you to the Father
 - b. If you know me, you know the Father
 - c. I am the way to the Father, I can show you the true road, through me you will find life
 - d. But Phillip, chosen by Jesus, brought Nathaniel to Jesus, still does not get it
 - e. Show us the Father, then we will be okay
7. Jesus disappointed says to Phillip, you have been with me, this long and you still do not know me
- a. I am in the Father, the Father is in me, when you see me, you are seeing the Father
 - b. When I speak, it is not my words, the Father is speaking through me
 - c. Believe in me or at least believe because of the works I have done
8. Jesus then says something meant not just for the disciples but for us as well
- a. Whoever believes in me will do the works that I do
 - b. Then what sounds strange to us: and will do greater than these because I go to the Father
9. How can we do greater works because Jesus is with the Father
- a. In His earthly ministry Jesus worked great miracles, that people could see
 - b. Now He wants us to understand, that just as the Father is in Him so He is in us
 - c. Through us, Jesus wants to give Himself to the whole world
 - d. When we believe in Jesus, we are made new people in baptism
 - i. We move from being beloved creatures to being adopted sons and daughters
 - ii. In confirmation the Holy Spiritfills us with special gifts so we can be examples of faith
 - iii. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself as food to us, so that we become His Body
 - iv. In marriage two individuals are no longer two, but one flesh
 - v. In Orders, deacons, priests and bishops represent Jesus as He leads us in prayer and faith
 - e. In Jesus earthly ministry, He invited people to faith, now that He is with the Father, He uses us, members of His Church, to change and heal hearts
10. Realizing that we have the power to bring god news and life to the people of the world, should be a rather frightening change
- a. It is one thing to be a passive observer of Jesus
 - b. Another thing to realize Jesus wants to work in us to change the world and we have the power to say yes or no to Him