

It's the Pentecost Sunday.

In today's gospel, the disciples of Jesus locked the doors for fear of the Jews. Today, we locked the doors for fear of the coronavirus. We hear about suffering and death due to the coronavirus among our neighbors. It's not only the story of someone else. It could be any of our stories. We are terrified.

Gospel says that Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." Then Jesus said to these disciples, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Today, Jesus comes to us and stands in our midst, giving us peace in this time of pandemic. Jesus also sends the Holy Spirit to us who are fearful. At this uncertain time, we are afraid of coming to church and coming into contact with others. The pastor in Hoboken said, "Young people are leaving church and even the town to avoid high density of the people."

The Pentecost, this way the day Jesus began the Church through his disciples. It's the birthday of the Church. This Pentecost Sunday, 2020, will be the day Jesus will rebuild his church again through us.

Should you still be afraid of coming close to others? Of course; you have to keep distance with others. You have to wear the masks. You have to wash your hands as much as possible. You have to do your best to protect yourself from the coronavirus. Jesus sends us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reconnects the isolated ones with others. The Holy Spirit makes us one, close to each other. Even though we keep social distance, we will be closer than ever in the Holy Spirit.

Please let the Holy Spirit lead you.

Wherever you go, the Holy Spirit will go with you. The life after this pandemic is unknown. Some say life after will be different from before. Even though it might be different, in a certain sense, it is going to be the same; for we will rebuild our community and walk together, not alone, in the presence of the Holy Spirit. We are the Church.

Fr. James