

FROM MERCY TO MISSION

May 3, 2026 | Fifth Sunday of Easter



John 14: 1 – 12

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be. Where I am going you know the way." Thomas said to him, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who dwells in me is doing his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father."

Opening Prayer

Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us forward and away from
limited certainty into the
immense world of your love. Give
us the capacity to even for a
moment taste the richness of the
feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with
uncertainty, with questions, with
doubts. Help us to experience the
resurrection anew with open
wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.
Amen.

Call to Action (*Choose One*)

- **Serve** → Identify one ministry, team, or need in your parish or community this week. Take a concrete step—reach out, sign up, or ask how you can help.
- **Contribute** → Reflect on one gift, skill, or strength God has given you. Intentionally use it this week to serve someone or support the mission of the Church.
- **Build** → Look for one small way to strengthen community—welcome someone new, encourage a volunteer, or help create an environment where others feel seen and valued.

From Consumer → Contributor → Community Growth

As we continue moving from mercy to mission, this week invites us to ask an important question: Am I simply receiving from the Church, or am I helping build it?

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His disciples, “Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the way and the truth and the life.” These words are not only meant to comfort us—they are meant to lead us. Jesus does not simply show us a path; He is the way. To follow Him means allowing His life to shape our own. Faith is not passive belief; it is active trust that moves us to live differently. Jesus goes ahead of us, prepares a place for us, and calls us to continue His work here and now. He even says, “whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.”

In Acts 6, we see the early Church facing growing pains. As the community expanded, needs increased, and the apostles realized they could not do everything alone. Instead of trying to carry the mission by themselves, they invited others to step forward and serve. Responsibility was shared, people used their gifts, and the Church grew stronger. Service was not a distraction from the mission—it was the mission.

This is the same invitation for us. The Church is not something we simply attend; it is something we belong to and help build. Through Baptism, we are not just spectators—we are participants. Saint Peter reminds us that we are “living stones,” being built into a spiritual house, called to announce God’s goodness to the world.

Sometimes we can approach faith like consumers: asking what the Church can give us, how it can serve us, or whether it meets our preferences. But discipleship calls us deeper. Jesus asks not only for our belief, but for our contribution.

Following Jesus will not always be comfortable. Real discipleship stretches us, asks something of us, and often leads us beyond convenience and into sacrifice. As Peter Kreeft writes, “If your Catholic faith is not making anybody uncomfortable, it’s not doing what it’s supposed to do. And if you’re not getting splinters from His cross in your life, you’re not as close to Him as He wants you to be.”

Faith that stays private and comfortable rarely transforms anything. But faith that serves, sacrifices, and steps into mission becomes visible—and that is how the Church grows. A healthy Church grows when ordinary people say yes to small acts of service. A welcoming parish, a thriving ministry, a stronger community—these are built when people move from sitting on the sidelines to stepping into mission.

This week, the invitation is simple: don’t just receive—respond. Ask where God may be calling you to serve. Explore one ministry, one place to help, one way to contribute. Because when we move from consumer to contributor, the whole Body of Christ grows.

Discussion Questions

- Over the past few weeks, we’ve reflected on trusting Jesus, recognizing His presence, and learning to hear His voice. How do you sense He may now be inviting you to move from simply receiving faith to actively contributing to the mission of the Church?
- In Acts 6, the early Church grew stronger when people stepped forward to serve instead of leaving everything to the apostles. Where do you see opportunities in our parish or community where your gifts could help strengthen others?
- Sometimes we approach Church like consumers—focusing on what we receive rather than what we can give. What are some signs of “consumer faith,” and how can we intentionally shift toward being contributors?
- Catholic philosopher Peter Kreeft says that real faith should make people uncomfortable and bring “splinters from the cross.” How have you experienced faith requiring sacrifice, courage, or stepping beyond comfort for the sake of others?
- Jesus says, “whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.” What is one concrete way you feel called to live that out right now—through service, leadership, invitation, or responsibility toward others?