**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MAY 31-JUNE 1, 2025**

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Gospel Reading**

Jn 17:20-26

[Jesus said:]

“I pray not only for them, but also for those who will believe in me through their word,

so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one,

I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”

**Intercession**

May we remove impediments to intimacy with God for ourselves and seek ways to be modern disciples who bring others closer to the Lord, such as supporting the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

We often think of prayer as a one-way street. We pray to Jesus or God for a particular need, or we ask Mary and saints to intercede to the Father and Son on our behalf. Either way, prayer – supplication or thanksgiving – originates with us. But today’s Gospel reminds us that we have another prayer partner – Jesus. Christ prays for us, too. He invites us to share unity with God and Himself: “As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us.” “They” are the disciples Jesus sends into the world to preach His Good News and those who receive this life-giving gift.

We are today’s disciples. As such, we can emulate the early disciples and continue to build the Church for Christ so that, as Jesus prays to His Father, “the world may believe that you have sent me.” And one of the ways we can fortify God’s kingdom on earth is to bring the Gospel to individuals who need to hear it most, such as those who benefit from the programs made possible by the Diocesan Ministry Appeal. Please consider a gift today.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Jesus prays for unity, that His disciples be as one and that those who hear the Gospel the disciples preach join in this unity. Unity is a sign of God’s love for us. This harmony is associated with a heavenly existence, where all strife and illness are wiped away. It’s not always correlated to life on earth, with its wars and conflicts, times of emotional upheaval and physical pain. But God’s unlimited love for us, as demonstrated through Jesus and His death and resurrection, results in a perfect oneness within the Church on earth.

Prayer is personal, intimate. In His prayers for us, Jesus calls us individually. He presents us and our needs to God *by name*. Christ desires a close connection with us: “I wish that where I am they also may be with me.” And He wants to draw us closer to the Father through prayer. This communion with Jesus and God feeds our living, sustaining us during troubling times and magnifying our joy in happy ones. So filled with God’s love, how can we not share with others? Please consider supporting the Diocesan Ministry Appeal to bring others into communion with our Lord.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: People of various ages, race, ethnicity, etc. standing together arm in arm.

Header: “[T]he world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me.” – John 20:25

Copy: Be a modern-day disciple and bring Christ’s love and unity to all you meet. May the Holy Spirit nourish our attempts to give witness to the Gospel of love, including support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.