



MAY 1, 2016

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 15:1–2, 22–29

PSALM 67:2–3, 5, 6, 8

REVELATION 21:10–14, 22–23

JOHN 14:23–29

REFLECTION

Rules and standards are necessary for almost any situation. The new Christians needed to know which rules applied to them and which didn't. Why should those who weren't Jews have to follow their old rules? It was a big deal, probably as big of a deal as many people placed on the changes in the liturgy at the time of the Second Vatican Council. Why change things that seemed fine? Rules require understanding, and the Apostles knew that then, as much as the priest and bishops know that now. We all need to be, somehow, on the same page.

Similarly, the Gospel message seems to be an "if A=B and B=C, then A=C" kind of equation. A=Jesus, B=God the Father, and C=listening to and following the Word. Jesus says that if we love him and listen, that's perfect! We need to know, however, that Jesus is God, and if we don't listen then we aren't following God's will. Sounds plain as day, right? It wasn't to those initially listening. Thus, Jesus said, "Listen to me now, but I will also send you a tutor to help you really 'get it': the Holy Spirit!"

ACTION

Think about all the rules you have to follow in a given day—rules for school, driving rules, family rules, rules of sports. Each situation has a different set of guidelines. Do all the people you choose to follow help you find your way to God? Using all the activities in which you participate, figure out an equation that helps you track your actions to following the desires of God. This may not be clear-cut. It may even be hard, but give it a try!

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Where in your life do you most need to hear Jesus tell you, "My peace I give to you"?
- What rules of the Catholic Church do you not understand? Whom can you ask to get help?