

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 20, 2008

**"I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.
NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME."**

—John 14:6

THE WAY

Today we sense the apostles' trepidation as they begin to realize that the Lord would soon be leaving them. In their fear, they ask, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know they way?" (John 14:5). Jesus tells them that *he* is the way. The Easter season has been a time of growing in Easter faith so that we, too, may learn to know that Jesus is the way. We can take comfort in the Lord's promise that he is going to his Father's house to prepare a place for us, his chosen people who have been called out of darkness into God's wonderful light. As the paschal candle continues to burn during this holy season, let us remember that in baptism we were given the light of Christ. With Christ our light as the beacon lighting our way, let us march toward the glory of Pentecost.

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ELECTRONIC GIVING

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? St. Matthew Church now offers Electronic Giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. It allows you to avoid having to make up the difference later. If this program sounds like something that will simplify your life, you may contact the parish office to receive the necessary authorization forms.

MINISTRY NON-AVAILABILITY DATES FOR MAY AND JUNE

ARE DUE TODAY, APRIL 20TH

csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or 562.491.1217

...REFLECTIONS...

The readings for the Sixth Sunday of Easter are listed below along with two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

FIRST READING: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

SECOND READING: 1 Peter 3:15-18

GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

1) After the resurrection, it is the disciples that begin working miracles and curing people. Why did they not have this power before? What has changed?

2) The readings for this Sunday are all about "the Spirit" as if the presence of God in us is not complete unless we have received God's Spirit. How does the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation bring us into the life of the Spirit of God and how are we to manifest this Spirit to others?

CARDINAL MCINTYRE FUND FOR CHARITY

"My flesh will dwell in Hope." (Acts 2:26)

Next Sunday is the parish yearly appeal for the Cardinal McIntyre Fund for Charity.

Through the generosity of the annual Sunday collection and of private donors in 2007, the Cardinal McIntyre Fund for Charity financially supported parishes with \$388,486.00. The fund provided help in time of crisis in some of the following areas:

- Approximately \$55,000 in rent, food, and transportation, especially for those who lost their jobs this year.
- Over \$15,000 in keeping the lights and heat on for families, paying medical bills and tuition for children.
- Over \$20,000 assisting in funeral costs and other unmet emergency needs.

Envelopes will be provided in the pews.

REMINDER TO PEACE AND JUSTICE

There will be a meeting on Monday, April 21 in classroom #2 starting at 7:00 p.m.. Hope to see everyone there.

RCIA TEAM MEMBERS

Our annual Team Retreat will be held in Huntington Beach today, Sunday, April 20th following the 10:30 a.m. Mass. All team members are welcome to attend.

PARISH REGISTRATION

Have you have recently moved into St. Matthew's parish but have not registered? Please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection box or return it to the rectory.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ (middle Initial) _____

Spouse's name: _____

Address: _____

Apt.#: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

Phone No: () _____

Mr. & Mrs.

Do you want to receive envelopes?

Mr.

Yes

Mrs.

No
