

6TH Sunday of Easter
May 17, 2009

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus assures the disciples of His love for them. He reminds them that they did not choose Him, but that He chose them. They responded to His invitation to follow, but only after He sought them out. His love drew them in, and He asks them to remain in that same love and extend it to others.

The same Lord has also sought us out. In our baptism He invited us to follow Him and become His disciples. He chose us to receive that sacrament. The faith we have is not of our own doing, but a gift from the Lord Who called each of us by name. He invites us to remain in His love by maintaining our communion with Him, and with each other, in the shared worship of the Church. There we learn to love one another in the same self-giving way that the Lord loves us.

Today some of our young people will receive the sacrament of Confirmation. The Holy Spirit will be conferred upon them so that they may be drawn even deeper into the Lord's love. Having been called, they now respond, by assuming adult membership and responsibility in the community of faith. They pledge to remain and grow in Christ's love. Like all disciples they will move from affection (I no longer call you servants, but friends) to true self-giving (Love one another as I have loved you). It is an arduous journey, but one filled with grace and joy. We pray for our young people today, that the sacrament conferred on them will come to completion in them. And, as they are filled with the Holy Spirit, we ask them to pray for us.

God bless you.

Fr. Pat