

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Fr. Larry Richards

Good morning. Are you ready kids? Really! Are you all excited? I was seven years old when I made my First Communion, seven. That is about your age now. Do you know how long ago that was for me? That was 43 years but I am still a baby, right? Sure I see the smile, exactly. I will never forget when I made my First Communion. Sister, we had nuns in those days that use to teach, and they were in full habits. We had a fine time. These nuns they use to teach all of us all the right ways. You were never late for Mass. You had to do this. You had to do that. They taught us how to fold our hands. We had to hold our hands like this real tight. And Sister Delores, no I had Sister Delores in first grade, Sister Inhoff she made us put our hands together real tight and she says, "Because you don't want the devil to get in between your fingers." So I remember my whole First Communion sitting there thinking no devil is going to get between my fingers. You watch it. It ain't going to happen. So I don't even remember my First Communion. The only thing I remember was that no devil got in between my fingers like this. My whole Mass was no devil is going to get between my fingers. So I neglected the most important thing, that Jesus Christ would come to me and make His home inside of me. And that He would feed me with His own Precious Body and Blood.

So now in my life now that I am 50, have been a priest for a long time, the most important thing now is say Mass, even if I am sick. Why, because to be able to receive Jesus and let Jesus who is God, who the universe cannot contain, and this Jesus wants to live inside of me and He takes up residence every time I go to receive Him in communion.

And now you kids, you heard the Gospel today, that is what I read. Does anybody know the last line of what I read up there? What Jesus promises? If you put your head down, I will look at you first. Jesus makes a promise to us that He would what with us? Inside of us, it is the last line of the Gospel which I read. Which God just spoke to you and nobody paid attention to I see. Yes, and He would love us, yes but more than that He would be with us, very good. He would be with us. That Jesus would be with us. That this is the promise today - that you and I are never alone. That you and I, that Jesus wants to so much to be with us. It is just more than Jesus becoming a man. It is more than Jesus dying for us. It is more than Jesus rising for us. It is Jesus wants to live inside of you forever. We are never alone. And today when you receive your First Holy Communion, who do you have Communion with? Yes, God and Jesus, yes and who else do you have communion with? The Holy Spirit, yes, He is going to come and bring you and He is the one who makes us one. Who else do you have communion with, this First Holy Communion? Angels, yes you have angels to have First Holy Communion with. Who else do you have communion with? Yes, all the people of course! Everybody on earth! And who else do you have communion with? Not just the people on earth but the people in heaven and yes one more place. You are in communion with all the people in heaven, all the people on earth and all the people in, Fr. Wright loves one place. He talks about it more than any other place in the world. Anybody at 8:30 Mass. Purgatory. Yes absolutely, Purgatory. For all eternity we become one. We have communion with Jesus, with other people on earth, with the people who are suffering in purgatory and with all the angels and saints in heaven. So this real communion means that we are all together forever. But this is what God wants. That God is not up there somewhere looking down and saying hey you people down there I am

thinking about you. God is inside of you and the greatest gift you could ever receive is to go to communion. There is nothing more important than you will ever receive in your whole life.

So when you get to know when you feel alone, when you feel far away, when you feel abandoned, all that you have to do is go to Jesus in communion. Then Jesus Christ says you are never alone. I am always with you. I live inside of you. All of the people you know if you have anybody, like my grandmother and father who are dead, do I become one with them now when I receive communion? Yes. So I am never separated from my grandma. I am never separated from my dad. Every time I go to communion I become one with them. So I am very intimate with my grandmother. I am very intimate with my father who are in heaven and we have this sacrament of communion together. So this is the greatest thing you are ever thing you are going to be with. You will never be alone the rest of your life. You will always have Jesus. You will always be one with us. You will always be one with the angels and saints forever. Isn't that exciting? So just don't focus on Jesus today, though He gives you His very self and you always need to focus on Him. But also remember when I become one with Jesus, I become one with everybody else. I am never alone.

So today just don't focus on keeping your hands real pointed like this so no devil gets between your fingers. Be focused on what happens to you today and all the days of your life if you want Him. Jesus wants to give His life to you so He can live in you, so that you are never alone. So you are one with Jesus and you are one with everybody. You got it? Get it? Going to live it? Good job. May each of you know His love today and forever, amen.