

## Homily – Confirmation

February 16, 2020

Today's readings focus our attention on spiritual wisdom. The Book of Sirach reminds us that God has created us with free will. We can choose good or evil. Choosing good – living rightly – is the path God has laid out for us to experience happiness and peace. St. Paul says that spiritual wisdom is for the mature follower of Christ. We discover that kind of wisdom in the word of God, in the teaching and life of Jesus. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live wisely.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus does not abolish the law found in the Old Testament. Rather, the Lord shows us how to carry out its deeper purpose -- to help us establish, maintain, and restore (when necessary) right or just relationships with others, the land, and God. This way of living leads to peace and happiness.

Jesus gives an example. The law commands us not to murder anyone. This is a minimum requirement!! We may not set out to kill someone, but anger can build to such an extent that we harm or even try to murder him or her. To be in a right relationship with others, we have to love them – respect their God-given dignity and worth, look to their well-being, help them when they are in need. Moreover,

authentic disciples of Jesus are to tell the truth. This builds trust, bridges divisions, tears down walls, builds up the community.

In a few moments I will lay my hands on each of you and call down the same Holy Spirit upon you, the same Spirit you received in Baptism. The Holy Spirit will come into your lives in a new and powerful way. Your gifts of the Holy Spirit will be increased. The Spirit will strengthen your faith and help you to be wise and generous in your service of others. You will become more effective faithful to the gospel in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

We are living at a very difficult time in the Church and in our world. There is so much darkness, chaos, lack of respect for the human person. We need courage for the present and hope for the future. We need to listen to the Word of God to be able to return to our true homeland – in the kingdom of God! The Holy Spirit will enable us to do precisely this – growing holy and active in the world, reaching out with God's love to all of our sisters and brothers.

We will walk the journey together! The risen Lord is with us! Our Lady of Guadalupe has promised to be with us always! The Holy Spirit will accompany and empower us! *Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!!*