

Year C

Sixth Sunday of Easter

I give you my peace

INTRODUCTION

All of us know how good it feels to get away once in a while from the hustle and bustle of our everyday lives, and enjoy some peace and quiet. Jesus gave us the gift of his peace which comes from God himself.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light the candles today, let us remember the words of Jesus who said:

I am the light of the world;
 whoever follows me
 will have the light of life
 and will never walk in darkness.
 (John 8:12)

SORRY

Close your eyes and listen carefully to the words of this prayer:

Lord, forgive us our impatience,
 or when we've not been true;
 For when we did not listen,
 or turned away from you.
 Give us lots of courage
 to make a fresh new start.
 Help us to be sorry,
 we ask this from the heart.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (JOHN 14:23-27)

Jesus said: "If you love me, my father will love you and the Holy Spirit will live in your hearts and fill you with wisdom and goodness. I leave you the gift of my peace, a peace which comes from God alone. Remember, do not be afraid, because I will be with you always."

DISCUSSION

Jesus gave the gift of peace to his followers. What

does the word "peace" mean? It means to be calm and quiet and free from disturbance or trouble.

What was special about the peace which Jesus shared with his disciples? The peace which Jesus shared was the special feeling which comes from being filled with the spirit of his love and goodness. Being close to God gives us a wonderful feeling of well-being and happiness. Jesus offered this peace to anyone who chose to follow him.

Stop and think for a few moments: Which part of your normal day is most peaceful and quiet? (Encourage the children to share their thoughts and ideas.)

For many people, the most peaceful time of day is at bedtime, just before they fall asleep. It is a good time to think about everything that has happened that day and to spend a little time talking to God.

Why is it important to make time for peace and quiet in our lives? Many people find it easier to pray and feel close to God when they can sit quietly without noise and distraction. At such moments, we can talk to God and he can speak to us in our hearts. Then we know the peace which Jesus promised us, as we are filled with the spirit of God.

ACTIVITY

Make copies of the doves on the opposite page and make them into individual badges for the children to decorate and wear.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, and fill our hearts
 with your love and peace.

Help us to make time in our busy lives
 to spend some time talking quietly to God.

