

## John 14:27-31a

As we move toward the end of the Easter season, our readings really begin to focus on the coming of the Holy Spirit. Our Lord speaks to His disciples about the gift of the Holy Spirit they are to receive. Notice the difference between the peace that our Lord gives and that the world gives.

The Hebrew is *shalom*, which means "to be complete or whole." Peace refers to our total well-being. First and foremost, it is God's gift to us. Concerning peace, the Catholic Catechism says, "*Peace is not merely the absence of war, and it is not limited to maintaining a balance of powers between adversaries (CCC 2304).*"

The Catechism reminds us that Christ's reconciliation "by the blood of the cross" brings God and the human race together. This is true peace (CCC 2305). In other words, peace comes from right relationship with God. When we are at peace with God, we can then have an interior peace that the world cannot give. St. Paul is a great example. Although nearly stoned to death (in our first reading), he has interior peace that the world cannot give.

Our Lord then says that he is going away and not to let their hearts be troubled. Naturally, it is always difficult to say goodbye to someone we love. Think of a family member or a friend with whom you had to say goodbye. On a natural level, it is healthy to grieve. But, as a Christian, grief should never overwhelm you. Following separation, there will always be reunion. Jesus will be reunited with the Father. After our passing, we will be united with the Father in Christ.

Finally, our Lord says that the ruler of the world is coming. The evil one was coming for Christ with His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. As always, our Lord remained perfectly at peace. There will be moments in your life when the evil one will attack (sometimes fiercely!).

In this light, I think of people who lose their cool or become highly emotional. In these cases, you can remain calm. Or I think of Pope Benedict XVI who always remained so calm. Every once in a while, a bishop would try to manipulate him through emotion to get what he wanted. And Pope Benedict would gently remind the bishop to take down the emotion so they could reason and get to the heart of the matter.

Those of you with a rich prayer life and deeply rooted in Christ are well aware of the deep interior peace that Christ gives. He gives you a peace from the inner life of the Trinity – the shared love of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit – is poured into your heart. While there may be troubles in the world, you can maintain Christ's peace knowing that our Lord who lives in you is greater than the one who is in the world. ~St. Thérèse, pray for us!