



Immaculate Conception  
Church

## Homily for the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Year A 2014

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Many of you remember Mayor Richard Daley who was Mayor of Chicago for some 21 years...from 1955 to 1976. Those who worked for him often found his egocentricity hard to take.

In line with this "egocentricity" there is a story of one of Mayor Daley's speechwriters who came in and indicated that he needed a raise. Mayor Daley's response could have been predicted. He said, "I'm not going to give you a raise. You are getting paid more than enough already. It should be enough for you that you are working for a great American hero like myself." So ended the conversation.

Two weeks later Mayor Daley was on his way to give a speech to a convention of veterans. The speech was scheduled to receive national attention. Mayor Daley was famous for not reading his speeches until he got up to deliver them. So it was on this day. As he stood before a vast throng of veterans and nationwide press coverage, he opened his speech for the first time and began. He described the plight of veterans. "I'm concerned," he said. "I'm concerned for you. My heart goes out to you. I am deeply convinced that this country needs to take care of its veterans. So, today I am proposing a seventeen point plan that includes the city, state and federal government to care for the veterans of this country."

By now, everyone was on the edge of their seats to hear what the proposal was. He turned the page and saw these words only: "You're on your own now, you great American hero."

No matter how great or small we are, we all need help. We need advocates who work behind the scenes to make us who we are. We need people who motivate us, guide us, sustain us and lift us up in moments of fear and frustration.

That's what Christ promises us today...that He will send His Holy Spirit to be God's presence, God's advocate, in our lives. He promises that God's Spirit will bring wisdom and courage into our lives so that we might live lives worthy of who we are as God's chosen people.

God's Spirit is not a descending dove as is often the case in many paintings. God's Spirit, rather, is a fire of love...a love that comes into our hearts so that the way that we live, the words that we speak and the actions we exhibit give evidence to the presence of Jesus Christ in our hearts. We all need help...and God sends us the One who is there to help us in all things...the love of God made real in God's Holy Spirit.