

Fr. Simon Sez

Congratulations to our Graduates!: Graduating from high school is an accomplishment and a milestone of success. We all need these in our lives for personal fulfillment and happiness, but consider the following famous quote from St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa): “We are not called to be successful, but faithful.”

I pray for our graduates and all of us to respond to the call of God to have faith-filled determination that not only helps us get through life, but blesses us in the process and helps us into Eternal Life!

Gettysburg FCCLA Chapter Thank You: Our local Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter thanked Sacred Heart Parish for the use of our parish hall so that they could raise funds and send their national qualifiers to their national convention. Their note says in part, “Thank you for your generous gift to the Gettysburg FCCLA Chapter. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation we will be able to showcase our accomplishments at a National level and represent South Dakota. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!”

DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Diocese Website: For a full list of upcoming events and available Church ministries visit the diocese website www.sfcatholic.org. Catholic Family Services offers a full range of counseling and adoption services at many locations around the diocese. If you or someone in your family is in need of some assistance, call 1-800-700-7867.

Diocese of Sioux Falls Job Board: The Diocesan Human Resources Office has recently implemented a hiring platform to help diocesan offices, parishes and schools better advertise their job openings and allow us to recruit more broadly. If you are seeking to work in an environment where your Catholic faith plays an integral role in your job, please go to <https://sfcatholic.hireclick.com/jobboard/>.

Diocese of Sioux Falls Priesthood Ordination: This is this Friday, May 27 at 11:00 a.m. Join us via livestream to watch three men be ordained by Bishop Donald DeGrood. You can find the link to the livestream at www.sfcatholic.org.

JP II Vocations Camp: This is our 6th Annual Vocations Camp for young men 12-16 years old! Young men going into 7th grade or just leaving their sophomore year are welcome. Father Tom Hartman and several seminarians will be leading the camp at Abbey of the Hills July 19-21 in Marvin, SD. Registration is now open on the Vocations page: <https://www.sfcatholic.org/vocations/>.

Council of Jerusalem Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixth Sunday of Easter



Acts 15:1–2, 22–29

Psalms 67:2–3, 5–6, 8

Revelation 21:10–14, 22–23

John 14:23–29

The first Church council, the Council of Jerusalem we hear about in today’s First Reading, decided the shape of the Church as we know it.

Some Jewish Christians had wanted Gentile converts to be circumcised and obey all the complex ritual and purity laws of the Jews.

The council called this a heresy, again showing us that the Church in the divine plan is meant to be a worldwide family of God, no longer a covenant with just one nation.

Today’s Liturgy gives us a profound meditation on the nature and meaning of the Church. The Church is One, as we see in the First Reading: “the Apostles [bishops] and presbyters [priests], in agreement with the whole Church [laity].”

The Church is Holy, taught and guided by the Spirit that Jesus promises the Apostles in the Gospel.

The Church is Catholic, or universal, making known God’s ways of salvation to all peoples, ruling all in equity, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

And the Church, as John sees in the Second Reading, is Apostolic—founded on the twelve Apostles of the Lamb.

All these marks of the Church are underscored in the story of the council.

Notice that everybody, including Paul, looks to “Jerusalem [and] . . . the Apostles” to decide the Church’s true teaching. The Apostles, too, presume that Christian teachers need a “mandate from us.”

And we see the Spirit guiding the Apostles in all truth. Notice how they describe their ruling: “It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us.”

Knowing these truths about the Church, our hearts should never be troubled. The Liturgy’s message today is that the Church is the Lord’s, watched over and guarded by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit sent by the Father in the name of the Son.