

# Pastoral Message: May 15, 2022

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These next couple of Sundays of the Easter season, we hear these beautiful words from John's Gospel. John uses them as departure words that Jesus says before he returns to the Father. May tends to be a season of transition and departure as students graduate from high school or college. Often times we hear commencement speeches that offer words of advice that point towards the future. Perhaps today's gospel we could think of like Jesus' commencement speech to his disciples before they return to the Father. Jesus' teaching will remain with them, carry them forward through the gift of the Holy Spirit. During St Agnes' reflection time on the synod there had been a lot of discussion about our mission with people offering differing answers. Jesus, as he gives his commencement address, gives us a very clear mission—that we get caught up and transformed by God's love. We then live out our call in the way we love one another. We need to remember that we are not called to be known primarily by laws and rules, agendas or causes, money or fame, titles or achievement. Jesus makes clear he wants us to be known by how we love one another and carry that out to others. Perhaps, as our children celebrate their First Communion, we are called to renew this mission, and our children, in their openness, are the best witnesses to teach us as a community to carry out our mission.