

May 22 2020-Friday, Sixth Week of Easter

John the Apostle

John and his brother James were partners in a fishing business with two other brothers—Peter and Andrew. In Matthew, they are the first four disciples called by Jesus.

John was said to be a young man when he was called to be a disciple, and he lived to an old age.

St. John the Apostle is mentioned 20 times in the Gospels (though never in the Gospel that bears his name). The threesome of Peter, James and John had an especially close relationship to the Lord (sometimes along with Andrew). For example, Jesus brought only them to witness the Transfiguration.

John and other disciples attended the Apostolic Council held in 49 A.D. in Jerusalem (the first “church” council). St. Paul also attended the council (along with Barnabas) where he recognized John as a “pillar of the Church.”

Since the sixth century, the feast of John the Apostle and Evangelist has been celebrated on December 27.

Jesus said: “On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you”

(John 14:20)

If the risen Lord announced that he was going to appear in my town next Wednesday, traffic would pick up right away.

Actually, you wouldn’t be able to get near the place where he was going to appear. There’d be helicopters and media from around the world.

We human being place great value on something we can see.

This was true of the disciples. As Jesus’ death approached, they felt that if he were no longer with them in the same way he had been, they would be without him. And they wanted to cling to his human, *visual* presence.

But Jesus tells them that it is quite the contrary. When the Spirit comes upon them, he will be *closer* to them. Seeing him in a vision (as they would do after the Resurrection) couldn’t hold a candle to receiving the Holy Spirit...which invites with our spirit...and God is within.

Imagine. God united with me. God there for me, on my side, loving me, accepting me, enlivening me, giving me courage, vision, sureness of purpose, peace, joy, life.

God within me always.

If I believe that, it changes everything.

Spend some quiet time with the Lord

