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Jn 14:18-24

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“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you” (Jn 14:18) The experience of feeling orphaned is really painful. But it is not restricted to children without living parents during their life on earth. Many are there who feel they are thrown into life with nothing or nobody to hold on to, quite uncertain what life is all about, especially when buffeted by the expectations and demands of others. The good news that the evangelist John brings from his experience and shares with us is that we are not orphans- we are held within the love relationship existing in the family of Triune God. But our communion with the family of Triune God is not one to be taken for granted, in a light-hearted way. For that communion of love to be our experience, as Jesus tell us in today’s gospel passage, we have to first prove our love to Him by obeying the commandments He has given us. When we have done that, we will be loved by God the Father, with the Father and Son making their abode in us. The next requisite for our communion with the Father and the Son is that we have to be ever open to the coming of the Holy Spirit who comes from the Father to us at Jesus’ request, to replace Him(Jesus) In our lives after His bodily departure from the world, that is , His Ascension. The role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is that of a ‘Paraclete’ (GK= counsellor/ an advocate to argue our innocence before a judge/ a helper/ a comforter). All these kinds of work that Paraclete does, reflect Jesus’ own work on our behalf. It is the Holy 2 Spirit who, on Jesus’ completion of his earthly ministry, binds us to God in Christ forever. It is He (The Holy Spirit) being with the Church forever, in the place of Jesus Himself, binds us to God, teaches us truth that the world cannot comprehend, and reveals Jesus’ presence beyond the imagination of those who have not received Him. The same Spirit ensures that when we keep the commandment of Jesus to love, we become His brothers and Sisters, and the sons and daughters of God the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. And it is this mystical love experience of being bound to God the Father in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church that made the mystic Saint and Doctor of the Church, Teresa of Avila utter in ecstasy, “I am the daughter of the Church”. Wish all the sons and daughters of the Church on earth the joyful greetings of the Feast of St Teresa of Avila whose Heavenly Feast is celebrated today in the Church.

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