

Easter 7 Gospel Reflection John 17:1-11

By Rev. John Dillon

In this Gospel reading Jesus is saying goodbye to his disciples, he knows he has only a few more hours to his earthly life. During his time with them he has poured all his energy into them, now he expresses all his hopes for them, and also his fears. He prays to God to watch over them as he prepares to hand over to them the work of God that been his responsibility, "*I glorify you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do,*" what we read is the beginning of Christian Ministry. He tells them that he has made them known to the one who sent him and what was made known to him he has made known to them.

If these words of our Lord are really to hit home to us, we need to realize that our Lord, in talking about his disciples, is talking about and to us. Jesus is preparing his disciples to continue the work he started on earth. He tells them that the message he received from God he has now given to them. These words are all recorded in the gospels we read and hear each Sunday, but do we know these words in scripture ? Do we really hear them and truly believe Jesus was sent by our Father to spread the good news and He is always with us.

Why is it important to know these things that Jesus said on the last evening with his disciples? Because the responsibility of carrying on the ministry of Jesus is now ours. It is also very important now in this time of uncertainty and disruption of our normal lives, that we pay attention to last sentence of this reading, our Lord is praying "*Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.*" Our country has a long way to go before we are back to normal, but we are not alone, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ is always with us.