

# Pastor's Letter

**May 10, 2026 – 6th Sunday of Easter**

Dear Church Family,

As the church carries out its mission of proclaiming and living the gospel, we do so as a community of human beings who are “in the world, but not of the world.” At the heart of who we are as the Body of Christ is the Holy Spirit who unites, guides, and empowers us. In our Gospel reading for today Jesus describes the Spirit as our Advocate, the one who stands beside us, in this world and before the throne of the Father. The help of the Holy Spirit is given both directly to each of us and indirectly through the apostolic structure of the church. We see this demonstrated in the Acts of the Apostles when the church brings its questions and disputes to the Twelve Apostles for them to pray about and decide.


Some people believe that the Holy Spirit and structured, hierarchical authority don't go together. Some believe that the church should just “go with the flow” of the Spirit and that organization just makes it harder to hear what the Spirit is saying. Others believe that a lack of structure and rational organization just leads to chaos. As is often the case, the answer lies in the middle.

The answer to the question of being Spirit-led or hierarchical is not either/or. It's both/and. Each of us has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us along the way, but in the complexities of life it's not always clear what God wants us to do. Sometimes we have to choose between competing goods and we don't know which should have priority. Sometimes our own desires conflict strongly with what God wants from us and his voice is drowned out. At those times we need the help of God-appointed authority to hold us together and keep us on track. We need to hear how the church has wrestled through the ages with issues that we face today. Our bishops, in communion with the Holy Father, have been given the graces to bear that responsibility.

We are grateful for the living voice of the Apostles which comes to us through their successors, the bishops. Under their leadership we can be confident that it is the Spirit of Christ which guides us and not just our own preferences or the political and social whims and trends of the present age.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



**VACATION  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL**  
FOR BOYS & GIRLS  
AGES 3 - GRADE 4

Come join us and have fun learning about the Daniel, Mary and Martha, Joseph and David. We will have games, snacks and TONS OF FUN!!

**June 7-11  
6:30 pm**

To register contact Mitchell Brecht at 217-257-9175 or email at [creestsbej.org](mailto:creestsbej.org)