

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Cycle a, May 14, 2017

Once, my parents showed me a photograph of my three brothers and myself when we were just young boys, still in grade school. Like all good pictures, it tells a story. It shows us at the zoo. We are standing at the intersection of two sidewalks, a crossroads. And we are all four headed in different directions. One is going north, another is going south, another is going east, another is going west. And our parents are trying to keep us together. It looks like total chaos. But then, that's the way life often works out. It is hard to tell what direction we are going.

In the gospel story, Thomas says to Jesus, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?"

We often echo Thomas' question. We do not know where we are going. We do not know where our life is headed. We do not know where life is taking us. So, how can we know the way?

In a few weeks, many students will be graduating from school. What can they expect next? Will they find a job? Will they move away?

Over the summer, many families will take advantage of the school vacation to relocate. Some will move in to this area. Others who have been living here will move to a new city. It's a time of transition. What will these changes in their lives mean?

The world in which we live is rapidly changing. Every year, there is something new in the economy, in political affairs. It is not the same world as when I grew up.

We do not know where we are going. So, how can we know the way?

In response, Jesus tells us, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

Our ultimate destiny remains a mystery. It is cloaked in metaphor. Jesus tells us, "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." But that does not give us an exact description. It remains largely a mystery.

Nonetheless, Jesus tells us that he is the way that will get us there. He is the way, even though we cannot clearly see where we are going.

And if our journey includes suffering and hardships, we remember the way of the cross that Jesus walked. With Jesus at our side, those suffering become our path to glory.

To give us the strength to make the journey, Jesus gives us spiritual nourishment. He gives us his own flesh and blood as food and drink in Holy Communion. This sacrament enables us to walk with Christ, to follow him wherever he might take us. He is the way, the truth and the life.