

*St. John Paul II Parish, Sellersburg IN*  
*The First Fifteen*

The Spiritual Life and Evangelization Commission asked that all parish meetings begin with a program we are calling "The First Fifteen." We are asking all parish meetings to begin with a few minutes of faith sharing. One person in the group reads the reading provided below (which corresponds with this next week's weekend readings) and everyone is given an opportunity to reflect and share on the readings. The questions below are simply a way to stimulate your reflection. You can use them or anything that strikes you about the word of God.

**Sunday, May 20, 2018 Pentecost Sunday**

**John 20: 19-23**

On the evening of the first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

**Questions to Ponder:**

In this reading Jesus is "Commissioning the Troops". He offers them Peace and sends them out into the world. A world they have locked out for fear of punishment. With this new commissioning they head out unafraid to carry the message to the world.

1. Do you remember your Confirmation ? How did you feel when the Archbishop or priest anointed you, you took a new name and returned to your seat "a new person."?
2. Jesus confers 3 Sacraments on the apostles in this appearance? What are they and how do these Sacraments affect your life?

End with the "**Glory Be**" "**Glory be to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**"