

I have a friend, George, who lives out in the country. He has a large, beautiful back yard and a large picture window which enables him to look out on that yard. He has a wire strung out between his house and a pole. He has hung a bird feeder out on the wire but there is a problem: the squirrels. They steal all the bird seed. It seems he has tried hundreds of ways to fool them but they always find a way to defeat him. It's more fun to watch George than to watch the clever squirrels. Poor George – and he was a high school principal!

There are several issues that are badly dividing our country at the present time: Racism, abortion and immigration are three of them. They are big political issues. So be it. But they are also huge religious, spiritual issues. For Catholics they are especially significant, and our church has a lot to say about each issue. But do you wonder; where does the Church get the right, where does the Church get the authority to teach about these issues?

Jesus states clearly that God the Father will send the Holy Spirit in His name and that the Holy Spirit will teach His followers, His disciples, the Church, everything and remind His disciples of all that Jesus told them. The Holy Spirit is the inspiration of the church. Truth is not true because we think it is. Truth is what the Holy Spirit teaches us, especially the church.

Our United States Catholic Bishops state clearly that racism is a sin; a sin that divides the human family and violates the fundamental human dignity of those called to be children of the same Father.”

Pope Francis has said much about abortion. He has said “at the third week after conception... all the organs are starting to develop. It is a human life... And this human life has to be respected. It is very clear.”

With regard to immigration “the Church states that people have the right not to migrate; that is they should be able to live freely in their countries of birth. However, when this is impossible, whether due to extreme poverty or persecution, the church says they have a right to migrate, and nations have a duty to receive them.”

In two weeks we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit on, into the Church.

Jesus promises us, “I will be with you always, until the end of the world.”

In Holy Communion the Holy Spirit will enter deeply into our hearts today.