

**Growing into Christhood**    Sixth Week of Easter    Saturday, May 12, 2018    8:15 AM  
Acts 18:23-28;    **Jn 16:23b-28**    (Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, martyrs; St. Pancras)    (We don't have to ask in his name; we just ask because we are in union with the Father when we are living his life, which is this life of pouring forth of love and service and life.)

**“The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures but I will tell you clearly about the Father.”**

Now what hour is he speaking of? This is at the end of this very, very long farewell at the Last Supper. He is about ready to leave the Upper Room and go to the Garden of Gethsemane. He will not be saying anything in words. So when is that hour? **That hour is the time of Calvary itself.** The cross is his speech in which he plainly tells about the Father, in which he plainly surrenders his entire life to the Father, pouring out his love and life and blood for love of his people, which turns out to be all people, since in Christ there is no male, female, Jew, Greek, slave, freeman, but all are one. So **he dies for all people, and this giving, this pouring out himself is his plain speech,** because in the world of God, in the Spirit, in the reality which is at the very center of everything, words don't work too well. **Words are just shadows. So when Jesus is talking about the plain telling, he is talking about the action that he will do.**

And he also goes on to say that **the whole point of his coming is to introduce us to the Father, so that we can live with the Father and relate to the Father.** Here he is trying to get away from the idea that he is the mediator. In a way we call him the mediator, and that's true; but **he is the mediator who brings us together in such a way that we are now in unity with the Father. And we don't have to ask in his name; we just ask because we are in union with the Father. But for that to happen we have to be living his life, which is this life of pouring forth of love and service and life.** “For the Father himself loves you,” not just me, he loves you, “because you have loved me.” In that way he is the mediator because **he set all this up now, made**

**it possible.** “I came from the Father and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father.” **So his mission is accomplished. But his coming was to bring us to the Father and create this unity.**

Now this is not yet really fulfilled and perfected. **When we come to Eucharist** we are building it up sacramentally. **When we reach out to others** we are building it up in our actions, in our virtue. **When we pray** we are building it up in our awareness. **There is a great synergy at work gradually helping us to grow up** beyond childhood, beyond adolescence, beyond adulthood **into Christhood.**