

Advocate - Jesus sends Spirit, active in us
neighborhood: pool at Y, easements/property of Hickman Mills

Ita Mana, unborn, death now

Cath Ch v politics

another Advocate - I has been one
not orphaned - anger of those left behind

The emptiness which results from losing one's parents especially hurts the young. As tragic as is a parent's loss of a young child, a child's loss of a parent creates a sadness so intense that we have a special name for ^{such children} them - we call them orphans. An orphan's feelings go beyond sadness. They may include anger, betrayal, and a self-righteousness directed at the parent or at God. We carry variations on that feeling even when parents divorce, when a lover leaves, or when we lose a job. Like orphans, we hear a voice within that cries out, "It's not fair."

On the night before he died, Jesus looked up from his own plate of sorrow into the eyes of the disciples he loved. Though preoccupied with the terror of his own swiftly approaching death, he took pity on his followers. Without him, Jesus knew, they would feel like orphans. So he spoke words he hoped they would remember in the darkness of the days ahead: "I will ask the Father," he promised, "and he will send you another Advocate, to be with you forever." This Advocate, or Paraclete, as some translations speak, is the Holy Spirit. Today the church continues to derive comfort from this assurance. Although Jesus suffered death, his Spirit lives in the church. That Spirit provides leadership, but it also acts as advocate, to plead the cause of orphans, widows, the poor, the prisoner, the sick, and the sad.

In these weeks before Pentecost our church prays ever more fervently for the coming of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the faithful so that the voice of the Advocate may remain strong. It is for this reason that our

church speaks up for life - for unborn children and prisoners on death row, for equitable taxation and helps for the poor, for neighborhood schools and recreational facilities for kids. Although church and state are separate, they depend on each other. The state orders society, and the church provides a check on its values. The pope and the bishops of our church frequently speak on political issues. The voice of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit continues to ring out.

My sisters and brothers that Spirit lies within all of us and yearns to speak comfort to a world of empty pain. Whenever we see injustice - at home, at work, at school, or in our neighborhood, we name it. Not just to condemn what is wrong, but to point out what's right. The world around us needs to hear the voice of the Advocate.

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