

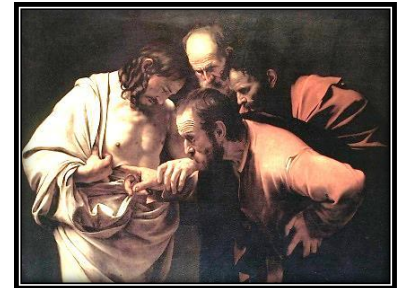


THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE



They (the Eleven whom Jesus instructed forty days after rising from the dead to “stay in the city until they were clothed with Power from on high” (Saint Luke XXIV: 49)) *were all together in one place* is what Saint Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles (II:1). What *memories* must have filled their minds and hearts as they waited in joyful hope for that Power from on high; that Paraclete; that Advocate, the Holy Spirit!

Undoubtedly they would have remembered the last time *they were all together in one place*: ten days earlier when Jesus was “lifted up, and a cloud took Him from their sight” (Acts I:9). And since they had those ten days, who amongst them could fail to remember when *they were all together in one place* and Jesus said to Saint Thomas: “put your finger here and see My hands, and bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving but believe” (Saint John XX: 27) or when *they were all together in one place* (that same place) three days after they *crucified Him, crucified Him, crucified Him*, and He appeared to them even though the doors were locked and said to them, “Peace be with you” (Saint John XX: 19). They were overjoyed to see the Lord on that day, and quickly their hearts began to burn within them again when they were still *all together in one place* as they remembered the two who recounted what had taken place on the way (to Emmaus) and how He was made known to them in the “breaking of the bread” (Saint Luke XXIV: 35).



I cannot help but imagine that when *they were all together in one place* remembering the past with gratitude, that they remembered as well when *they were all together in one place* the night before He died and He took bread and changed it into His Body and He took wine and changed it into His Blood saying to them the six words that have gathered believers together in one place for two thousand years: “Do this in memory of Me.”

It is that last remembrance of the Last Supper in the Upper Room that has kept the Church in Freeport gathering together in one place for over one hundred years. That place of course is 37 South Ocean Avenue where we, like the Apostles, remember the past when the Power from on High promised to the Apostles came to us (just as It did them) in *Baptism* and made us children of God and members of His Church; came to us in *Confession* and reconciled us to God and His Church; came to us in *Holy Communion* and nourished our bond with God and His Church; came to us in *Confirmation* and sealed us with the Power to make disciples of all nations for God and His Church; came to us in *Matrimony* so that all might see how God so loved the world in Jesus Christ, when they see the love between husband and wife!



Please this Pentecost, promise God that you will take the Power from on High that you have received and use It to build up and renew the face of our Church (become more involved at Our Holy Redeemer), our families (spend more time at home), our schools (participate in the PTA), and our Village (talk with our Mayor). In doing so, you will be doing your part as a child of God and member of His Church to renew the face of the earth which Pope Francis reminds us is our common home. Wouldn't be great if that home could become like the one place *where we are all together* on Sunday? The home *where coming home is what it's all about!*



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