

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER FIRST COMMUNION

Year C May 5, 2013

I'd like to tell you a First Communion story:

A second grader named Ella and her family were going to Disney World for spring break.

Just before they left for the airport, Ella's Dad pulled his car way up into the driveway, close to their house.

Just after they returned from Florida, Ella opened the front door and started to run to her friend Ginny's house when suddenly saw something she could hardly believe.

Hurrying back into the house she pulled a-not-too-happy-to-be-bothered-right-thensy-we're-busy-unpacking Mom and Dad outside to see what she had discovered.

When they looked, though, there, tucked pretty-as-you-please into the gap between the window and the side view mirror on dad's car was a bird's nest with three bright blue eggs in it.

And on the edge of their garage was one squawking robin and on the telephone wire was another.

The whole family was amazed at what the birds had done while they were away in Florida, but now what should they do:

How was dad going to get to work?

Should they move the nest up into a tree? But maybe the mother and father birds wouldn't like that and leave the nest.

Finally, they decided that Ella's Mom and Dad would switch cars and Mom would leave the nest.

Mom would leave the nest alone and she would only take Ella to school and go to the grocery store.

The family decided to take a test drive around the block to get the Mother and Father birds used to the idea: Mom drove, while Ella and her dad sat in the back.

Mr. and Mrs. Robin yelled and cried and dive bombed the car all the way around the block, but once the car was back in the driveway and the family was back in the house and watching from the windows, the two robins immediately returned to their nest, with mama taking up her position atop her eggs.

The next day when Ella's mom took her school, the two robins flew along side the car.

By the end of the week, would you believe, the mama bird actually, sat atop her eggs as they drove the few blocks to school.

Needless to say, each morning nearly the whole school was waiting to see Ella and her robin family arrive.

Well, it took many weeks for the eggs to hatch, the chicks to grow and learn to fly, and the nest to empty, before Ella's Dad could finally get his car back.

But it had all been fun and Ella had learned so much about birds.

But, you might say, does this story have to do with First Communion?

Well, Jesus told us in the First Communion gospel today, **“if we love him that he and his Father would come and make his dwelling with us.”**

Maybe to help us understand what he means we could reword what he said to be: If we love him Jesus and his Father will come and make their nest in us and live in us.

Or we could also say, as St. John did somewhere else in his Gospel, Jesus would come and pitch his tent in us.

Or, also as St. John wrote, Jesus said he would be like the Bread of Life for us and whoever ate his Bread would never ever again get hungry.

Do you get the idea: in Holy Communion, Jesus builds a nest inside of us, to live inside of us, to be with us wherever we go.

Try to think of all the places you are going to go this coming week:

- to school,
- to soccer practice,
- to dentist,
- to visit aunt Sally and Uncle Ed.

Jesus will be going with you.

Holy Communion is the reminder that he is with you all the time, riding along with you, like that mama rode along in her nest tucked between the mirror and the window of Ella's Dad's car.

So get ready, Jesus and his Father are about to come and make their home in each one of you, in each one of us.