Sixth Sunday of Easter (C)

Gospel text (*Jn* 14:23-29): Jesus said to his disciples: “Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him ... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me tell you, ‘I am going away and I will come back to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it happens, so that when it happens you may believe.”

Jesus is always present with us and for us

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, the departing Jesus does not make his way to some distant star. He enters into communion of power and life with the living God, into God’s dominion over space.

Hence, he has not ‘gone away’, but now and forever, by God’s own power he is present with us and for us. In the farewell discourses of Saint John's Gospel, this is exactly what Jesus says to his disciples: “I go away, and I will come to you”. These words sum up beautifully what is so special about Jesus' “going away”, which is also his “coming”, and at the same time they explain the mystery of the Cross, the Resurrection, and the Ascension. His going away is in this sense a coming, a new form of closeness, of continuing presence, which for John, too, is linked with “joy”.

—Because Jesus is with the Father, he has not gone away but remains close to us. Now He is no longer in one particular place, but He is present and accessible to all of us.