

## Thoughts By Sr. Jo Ann

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

By now you are probably becoming familiar with the readings from Acts and Peter. Both trace the development of the post-resurrection community and the beginning of the Christian churches, as referred to in the letters of Paul and Peter and the early Christian communities.

We continue hearing our Gospel from the writer John. He uses the "I Am" statements not only in his own Gospel writings, but also from the Synoptic writers. The source of the "I Am" statements comes from the burning bush story of Moses in the book of Exodus. God commands Moses to lead the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt. When Moses asked for God's name to confirm His authority to lead them, God answered: "I AM" is my name. So, when Jesus uses this phrase in his teachings, he is claiming his Sonship to the Triune God. Phrases such as "I am the way, the Truth and the Life"; "I am the Light of the World"; and last week, "I am the Good Shepherd". But today, He cuts to the heart, "I am IN the Father and the Father is IN me." The Risen Christ speaks of returning to his Father, the Trinitarian God.

I wonder: If we are children of God, brothers and sisters of Jesus, the Christ, will we too enjoy the same return to God, from where we come? After all, we believe we are God's Gift to each other, Right?