



## *A Good Lawyer...*

Our modern world often makes serious accusations against Christians. The political system, educational projects, and social and economic complexities challenge the evangelical ideal. We may at times feel that we are helpless following the aftermath of this tornado of opposition. What can we do to reverse this onslaught? Must we allow ourselves to be swept along into this threatening vortex or do we stand up and confront these challenges?

St. John the Evangelist wrote this passage after the Last Supper to support the Christians of his community. He reminded them about how desperate the Apostles were when they realized that Jesus was about to be condemned by the authorities. They were defenseless and discouraged.

In this context of an imaginary battle between the forces of darkness and enlightenment, the Lord's beloved disciple wrote about the gift of the Holy Spirit who would be their defender and lawyer. The Holy Spirit would enable Christ's disciples to fulfill their mission. The Spirit would help them to understand Christ's message and give them the strength needed to confront all opposition. They would no longer feel abandoned like orphans. The Spirit of Truth would inspire them to preach the Good News before the world's tribunal.

The gift of the Holy Spirit, received on our Confirmation day, will support the full witnessing of our faith and our relationship with Christ. Like the early Christians, we are called to proclaim the Gospel in all dimensions of our lives.

In an era such as ours, it is essential to recruit credible witnesses. We know that powerful witnessing reinforces our faith. Paul VI reminded us in his 1975 Apostolic Exhortation on Evangelization in the Modern World: *"Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses"* (#41).

In this ongoing battle, we may always count on the presence of a good lawyer: the Holy Spirit of Truth whom Christ sent to his disciples.

*Gilles Leblanc*

Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli

*God Keeps His Promise : Possibilities Abound...*