

EASTER 2015

Pentecost - May 24

Easter in us! There is a very clear direction in the life and death of Jesus. He seeks to give the Holy Spirit to us to be his living heart and face in the world.

An Easter Newsletter

Number 8, May 24, 2015

Pentecost readings:

AA 2 1-11

1 Cor. 12, 3-7, 12-13

Jn. 20, 19-23

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like a violent wind



Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them,



And a tongue rested on each of them.

All were amazed and perplexed



IT IS NOW!

God's plan for our salvation is marvelous. We know that the Son of God became a human being, suffered, died and rose from the dead. But the plan reaches far into the future. Jesus clearly taught the disciples that he would send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

The plan for the redemption of humanity would take new roots in the very lives of the women and men who have been called to follow Jesus. The mystery must now be lived in and through the people of the Church.



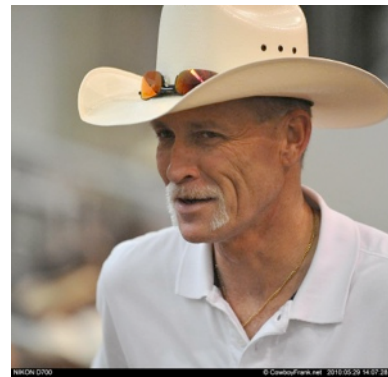
One of our greatest needs in the Church is to be captured by the sense of the Holy Spirit living and working among us. We are directed to be the extension of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us to energize us to bring God's mercy and peace to the world. Now, the outpouring of God's great goodness must happen through us.

Our religious faith was never to be a temple-centered religion where we just do religious things in the temple. It is just the opposite. We are meant to go out into the streets and factories and bring the goodness and mercy of God to others.

Now, the Spirit of Jesus is given so that we can become the healing touch of Jesus to the wounded and broken of this world.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles in the first Pentecost was never meant to be a once-for-all event. It must now happen in our own space and time. Pentecost is a now-event!



PENTECOST OPENS YOU TO THE WORLD

Leonard, in his seventy-five years of hard work, summarized it well. “Now, in my old age I am beginning to understand my faith. Why does it take so long to get a grip on what God is doing in our world?”

If we only have the faith knowledge that we finished off at the age of fourteen, we should not be surprised that we limped through life with an adolescent grasp of the workings of God.

Pentecost, if we but pay attention, breaks open any narrowness that we might have. This is the great moment when the Holy Spirit (that is, God in the present tense) is poured out in abundance to everyone.

The pieces of fire (which is identified as a tongue of fire) comes and settles on the head of every disciple. Fire is always a sure sign of God. Remember that Moses first met God in the burning bush: i.e, fire! This is a very powerful moment when God is breaking into humanity.

Notice the other great sign of divinity. There is a powerful wind within the house! Now when do you have a powerful wind (AA 2,2) within the house? It is the wind and the fire that indicate that this is an encounter with the divine.

What happened?

All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability (AA 2,4). This is the healing of the breakdown that happened within humanity at the Tower of Babel. In their arrogance humanity was given a multitude of languages. They could not understand one another. They were divided from one another. Now, humanity has been brought back to God. All the people can hear the Good News. Now, all peoples can receive the workings of God.

Pentecost is not the disciples turned within themselves. This is not a God-and-me centered religion. It is exactly the opposite.

Now, God is being poured out toward the entire world. This is

God coming to the the four corners of the earth.

Pentecost means that you are to receive and live the Holy Spirit. As Jesus brought respect and goodness to the unwanted of his time, now you are given the Holy Spirit to bring goodness and respect to the peoples who are unwanted today. It might be your own brother who is struggling with addictions to drug and pain killers (prescription drugs).

CHECK LIST: DO YOU HAVE A PENTECOST AWARENESS?

1. We sincerely pray that the Holy Spirit fill our days and service to others in the larger community?.
Yes/No
2. I have been taught that the Holy Spirit moves within the Church among his people, rich and poor alike?
Yes/No
3. To me, Pentecost is the extension of the resurrected Jesus?
Yes/No



THE SPIRIT MEANS 'YOU ARE SENT'

How many times have you got together with friends from high school. You begin to share stories of your grade twelve camping trip. As one of the guys is explaining your encounter with a bear in the wild you sit back quietly and remind yourself, 'It didn't quite happen that way!'

Who can argue with memory? If your classmate thinks that the bear broke into three tents, then in his mind that is the truth! In actual fact, you know the bear never came into any of the tents of that memorable camping trip.

In our church, always listen to what people remember about Jesus. What are they talking about? What is missing from their memory of Jesus?

On Pentecost we hear from the Gospel of John (Jn. 20,21) Jesus is giving the disciples their mission and their place in the plan of God. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Pentecost is the sending of the people of the Church to bring the love and mercy, that

is Jesus Christ, to the world. We are given an incredible mission. We are being sent to the world.

It means that we are sent to bring God's Good News to the many inactive Catholics with whom we work. Many have drifted away for a great variety of reasons. Jesus sends us to call them to a living walk with himself.

It means that we are sent to bring a touch of compassion and friendship to the many people who are forgotten in our nursing homes. Their loneliness is touchable. The Holy Spirit moves us to share our lives with the forgotten elderly.

It means moving out of our comfortable pew on Sunday morning and reaching out to the new Canadians who may not know anyone in this parish church. This is welcoming the stranger. How wonderful to have a prayer-in-action, which means that we are seeking to meet the face of Jesus in the stranger, the new-comer to our church.

BE AWARE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN YOUR LIFE AND YOUR CHURCH

LORD, bring us to a daily awareness that when we pray we are being moved by your Spirit within us.

LORD, alert our eyes to recognize the gifts that you have given to other people. Alert us to see how you are working within and through them.

LORD, give us a heart that embraces all the people you have called to the Church. May we welcome people of diversity in all their wonderful gifts and customs.

PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Live the Holy Spirit each day this week



Come Holy Spirit

PENTECOST SURPRISES
HOLY SPIRIT COME TO US

The time of the Holy Spirit is now. The actions of the Holy Spirit unfolds among us!

PRAY OVER THESE IMPORTANT WORDS FROM OUR SUNDAY READINGS.

KEY WORDS

John 20,19 "When it was

evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."



John 20,20

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.



John 20,20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord

John 20, 21

Peace be with you.

John 20,21

As the Father has sent me, so I send you.

PRAY PENTECOST WITH EXPECTATION

There is a wonderful experience shared by one of the shop owners in our large shopping mall. She could see that a little guy was sitting on a bench in the center aisle for some time. Something must be wrong. She went up to the little guy and asked him if he was lost. The little guy just smiled and replied: "My Dad told me that if I ever got lost just sit down and I will find you." The problem was solved. The little guy was waiting for his Dad to locate him.

What a good image for prayer. Sit still and wait for the Holy Spirit to locate you!

Wait for the Holy Spirit to reveal to your heart the depth of the Scriptures that are shared in your church each Sunday.

Be accepting of the Holy Spirit revealing the concerns that God has for the suffering of others, especially the sufferings of those who are close to you.

The Holy Spirit seeks to find you.

