

## Said Ed - Pentecost

"And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were gathered. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit!"

And so it was on that first Pentecost day. Today we celebrate that same feast the early followers of Jesus celebrated. The Spirit of God comes upon us as well. Just as the people then were astonished and filled with amazement, so are we. But what are signs that this same Spirit is in our midst today?

As I thought about this feast day - the birthday of the Church, (as we learned in our catechism days) I began thinking about our community of faith. God's Spirit is indeed being poured out upon us continually, but today I want to reflect with you upon the special ways that I see this happening in our midst.

First, I sense a new movement of the Spirit in our assembly, more and more people introduce themselves to me after mass as new to the parish or newly returned from elsewhere. They say that they are coming here because they feel welcome and a part of things. They tell me that there is a feeling of inclusion and enthusiasm in our midst that they value and long for in their lives. The Spirit is here!

Our recent Parish Pastoral Council nomination process resulted in 74 people being nominated to provide leadership in our parish. 24 of these people accepted the nomination and seven of these were selected by lot to become new members of our Council. This is a great sign of our vitality and investment in the life of our parish. The Holy Spirit is here!

I see great numbers of people reaching out to others who are in need. There's those who help out with the Sunday Dinner Program, our Social outreach ministries, Stephen Ministers who care for folks one to one . At 11:30 Mass today, Bonnie Venton, Brian Venton and Kathleen Cunniffe are being commissioned as new Stephen Ministers. There are those who visit the sick, pray for us all at daily mass and prayer groups, our wonderful teachers and aids in our School of Religion and those who plan, execute and evaluate our Liturgical life. The list goes on and on. The Spirit is here!

Soon we will be hearing more about RENEW from the wonderful people who have been working for months to get us ready for this powerful movement of the Holy Spirit in our midst. There are so many quiet ongoing ways that the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon us. I'm thinking about the RCIA and our Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization efforts. Yes, the Holy Spirit is being poured out upon us today and we are blessed to be here as it happens!

I thank God that I am here in this community at this time. I know we have our challenges, but I also believe that this same Holy Spirit that came upon those early believers is coming upon us this day. No matter what fears or anxieties we face individually or collectively, the Spirit of God calls us to boldly proclaim our trust in God and our confidence that God is with us!

Happy Birthday, Church! May we become more aware of God's fiery Spirit in our midst!

Have a great week!

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