



ANNUNCIATION CHURCH

"As the father sent me, so I send you."

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Pentecost

SUNDAY

MAY 31, 2020

Jesus breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
and whose sins you retain are retained."

John 20:22-23

When we were in high school, there was an old cheer at ballgames, "We've got spirit, yes we do. We've got spirit, how 'bout you?" We would scream it back and forth with the opposing team's fans. And while, "Got Spirit?" could certainly be the catchphrase today, we see people receiving the spirit in many different ways. In Acts, there is a bombastic appearance of a loud noise and a driving wind, followed by people being able to understand speech in many languages. It is reminiscent of a booming, "This is my Son, my Beloved." Psalm 104 "Lord, Send out Your Spirit" was also the first psalm used at the Easter Vigil, in response to the creation story. First Corinthians acknowledges that there are many different spiritual gifts, but we must use them together as the body of Christ. The Sequence is a beautiful prayer that calls down the Spirit. In John's Gospel, the Spirit comes through the breath of Jesus. What can we take away from this? That the Spirit of God is not "one size fits all." Rather, the Holy Spirit will come to us, speak to us, be given to us, as each of us needs.

UNLOCK THE DOORS

When we put the Gospel in its context, John 20 starts with the empty tomb and the appearance to Mary Magdalene. Still, the disciples were scared and confused. They gathered together to regroup. They locked the door for fear of the Jews, whom they had just experienced as an angry mob, whom they had just seen crucify their friend Jesus. These disciples were afraid of the Jews, but they may also have been feeling guilty and confused for running away from Jesus at the cross, for hiding, for trying to protect them-

selves.

Now the risen Jesus comes to them saying, "Peace be with you," showing them his wounds, and greeting them again. Jesus is modeling something very powerful here. Most of us hate to be vulnerable. We try to hide our wounds and scars. We try to protect ourselves and show everybody that we have it together. In order to be healed, to receive the Spirit, to move on in our lives, we need to unlock our internal doors. We need to let Jesus into our house, into our hearts, and into those darkened corners of ourselves. It might be frightening. It might mean going to the sacrament of reconciliation or speaking with a spiritual director or even with a therapist.

RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

We often worry about how others will respond if we are less than perfect. Jesus knew the disciples were flawed humans. He did not get angry or give them a guilt trip. He said, "Peace be with you." He was gentle. Jesus gave them the gift of new life through a simple gesture. He breathed the Spirit into them. This is reminiscent of Genesis, when God breathed life into Adam, and Ezekiel, when God breathed life back into the dry bones. Jesus concluded with, "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." So not only did Jesus entrust them with this role, this power, he first showed them how it is done. How do we in turn breathe life into our families and friends? Our coworkers? The stranger we meet?

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1-11 Ps 104: 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23



We encourage you to take notes as you reflect on this week readings / homily:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 12 horizontal rows.

Vrede
 SHALOM
 — PAIX
 FRIEDEN
 PEACE
 — PAZ
 HALVA
 PACE

ACTS 2:1-11

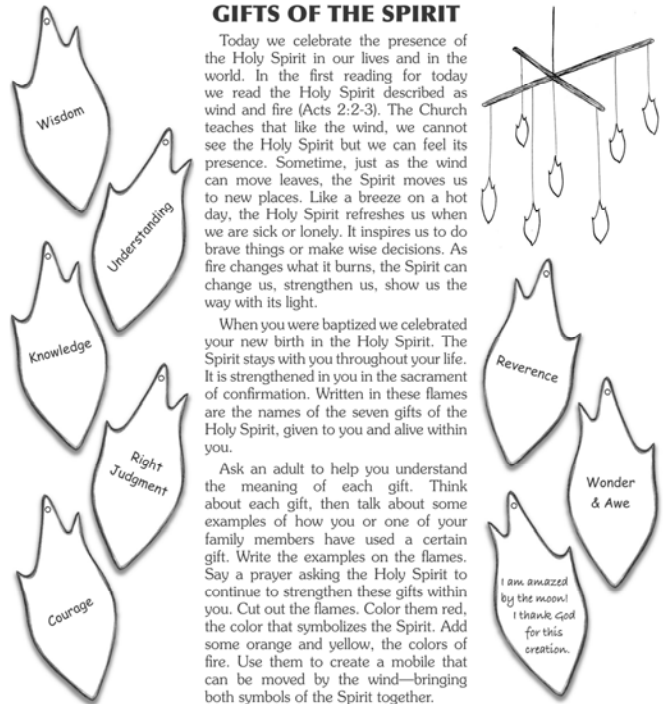
CATHOLIC CORNER

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Today we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the world. In the first reading for today we read the Holy Spirit described as wind and fire (Acts 2:2-3). The Church teaches that like the wind, we cannot see the Holy Spirit but we can feel its presence. Sometime, just as the wind can move leaves, the Spirit moves us to new places. Like a breeze on a hot day, the Holy Spirit refreshes us when we are sick or lonely. It inspires us to do brave things or make wise decisions. As fire changes what it burns, the Spirit can change us, strengthen us, show us the way with its light.

When you were baptized we celebrated your new birth in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit stays with you throughout your life. It is strengthened in you in the sacrament of confirmation. Written in these flames are the names of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, given to you and alive within you.

Ask an adult to help you understand the meaning of each gift. Think about each gift, then talk about some examples of how you or one of your family members have used a certain gift. Write the examples on the flames. Say a prayer asking the Holy Spirit to continue to strengthen these gifts within you. Cut out the flames. Color them red, the color that symbolizes the Spirit. Add some orange and yellow, the colors of fire. Use them to create a mobile that can be moved by the wind—bringing both symbols of the Spirit together.



31 DE
MAYO
DE 2020



DOMINGO DE Pentecostés

Aparecieron lenguas de fuego,
que se distribuyeron y se posaron sobre ellos;
se llenaron todos del Espíritu Santo.

HECHOS 2:3-4

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Ilustración de la Vela de Pascua: Tony Ward para J. S. Paluch, 2020. Foto: Mosaico del espíritu santo, Basílica de San Volodymyr, Kiev; Bill Perry/Adobe Stock

Cuando ponemos el Evangelio en su contexto, Juan 20 empieza con el sepulcro vacío y la aparición a María Magdalena. Aún así, los discípulos estaban asustados y confundidos. Se reunieron para reagruparse. Cerraron la puerta con llave por miedo a los judíos, a quienes habían vistos furiosos en una turba, quienes acababan de crucificar a su amigo Jesús. Estos discípulos tenían miedo de los judíos, pero también podían haberse sentido culpables y confundidos por haber huido de Jesús en la cruz, por esconderse, por tratar de protegerse ellos mismos. Ahora Jesús resucitado viene hacia ellos diciéndoles: “la paz sea con ustedes”, mostrándoles sus cicatrices, y saludándolos una vez más. Jesús está moldeando algo muy poderoso aquí. Muchos de nosotros odiamos ser vulnerables. Intentamos esconder nuestras heridas y cicatrices. Intentamos protegernos y mostramos a todos que todo está bien. Para poder ser sanados, para recibir al Espíritu, para seguir con nuestras vidas, necesitamos abrir nuestras puertas interiores. Necesitamos dejar a Jesús entrar a nuestra casa, a nuestros corazones, y en aquellas esquinas oscuras de nosotros. Podría ser aterrador. Podría significar ir al Sacramento de la Reconciliación o hablar con un director espiritual o incluso con un terapeuta.

RECIBIR AL ESPÍRITU SANTO

Frecuentemente nos preocupamos por cómo los demás responderán si no somos perfectos. Jesús sabía que los discípulos eran humanos con defectos. Él no se enojó ni los hizo sentir culpables. Él dijo: “la paz sea con ustedes”. Fue gentil. Jesús les dio el don de la vida nueva por medio de un gesto simple. Él sopló en ellos el Espíritu Santo. Esto es una reminiscencia del Génesis, cuando Dios sopló vida en Adán; y Ezequiel, cuando Dios volvió a soplar vida en los huesos secos. Jesús concluyó con: “a quienes les perdonen los pecados, les serán perdonados; y a quienes se los retengan, les serán retenidos”. Así que no sólo les confió Jesús este papel, este poder, sino que primero les mostró cómo se hace. ¿Cómo nosotros insuflamos vida a nuestras familias y amigos? ¿A nuestros compañeros de trabajo? ¿Al extranjero que encontramos?

Lecturas de hoy: Hch 2:1-11 Sal 104 (103): 1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23