

PENTECOST 2018 – The One-Year Anniversary of Unleash the Gospel

From STM Bulletin, May 20, 2018

One year ago at Pentecost, Archbishop Vigneron gave us his Pastoral Letter, *Unleash the Gospel*, “as the charter for implementing the fruit of Synod 16,” that historic prayer-filled gathering which he saw as the “ignition spark ... to set the Archdiocese ablaze.”

In *Unleash the Gospel*, our Archbishop challenges us to participate in “a radical overhaul of the Church in Detroit ... a reversal of our focus from an inward, maintenance-focused church, to an outward, mission-focused church,” that looks to a New Evangelization.



How can we ordinary Catholics accomplish something so grand on our own? We can't! Just “as the first evangelization could not have taken place without the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost, so the new evangelization cannot be accomplished without a new Pentecost.” It is the Holy Spirit, God's love poured into our hearts, who reveals to us “our own exalted identity as beloved sons and daughters of God ... It is [the Spirit] who fills Christ's disciples, then and now, with a compelling zeal to go forth and announce the good news of salvation.”



As we celebrate Pentecost, let us give thanks to God for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, for the command of Jesus (Matt 28:19) that we hear renewed in *Unleash the Gospel*, in the Archbishop's charge that we “undergo a ‘missionary conversion’ ... such that every person at every level of the Church, through personal encounter with Jesus Christ ... in the power of the Holy Spirit, is formed and sent forth as a joyful missionary disciple.”

PRAYER TO UNLEASH THE GOSPEL

*God our Father,
you have called us to be witnesses to Jesus
and have commissioned us to lead all people to encounter him.
Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten our minds
so that your will may be clear to us and that we may accept it.
Dwell within our souls and make our hearts your own.
Transform us into a band of joyful missionary disciples
embracing the fruits of Synod 16
so as to share the good news of Jesus Christ in Southeastern Michigan
through joyful evangelization and service.*

***Come, Holy Spirit,
fill the hearts of your faithful,
and kindle in them the fire of your love. Amen.***

Saint Anne, pray for us.