

Reflections from the Upper Room:

for the Pastoral Musician

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Reflections for Pentecost Sunday

By: Justin Connors, *Director of Music & Liturgy at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Old Bridge*



Veni Creator Spiritus

Pentecost Sunday, derived from the Greek word “pentecoste”, meaning 50, is the culmination of the Easter Season, and should be celebrated with majesty and zeal! Its vigil is akin to the Easter Vigil with an extended Liturgy of the Word. Together these Solemnities serve as beautiful book ends to the Liturgical season.

As the Apostles, Mary and the first followers of Jesus gathering in that Upper Room in secret, we too, in a sense have been worshiping differently these past few months in the wake of a global pandemic. The churches have been devoid of her faithful, only sparsely filled with a Priest, a Deacon and maybe a musician. This past Holy Week gave us Pastoral Musicians a small glimpse of what the early church experienced, an experience of a “strong, driving”

wind that hopefully opened not only our eyes to the church’s liturgy, but our eyes of faith as we are charged just like the first followers, to “go out and preach the Gospel to all nations.” What better way, than through music!

The Entrance Antiphon, “The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world and that which contains all things understands what is said, alleluia” opens the windows per say, to an understanding that only the Holy Spirit can provide. This great feast of our church shows us the diversity since “the whole world’ is just not you and me, but encompasses many languages, cultures, ideas, beauty, differences and intellect.

In the day’s responsorial psalm, “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth” we continue to see how the renewal of God’s works, deeds and actions are continuous and never ending, something that we do need to be reminded of, and Pentecost provides us with that very opportunity. The Church’s birthday is also our time to renew our role in each of our parishes. Is the Holy Spirit allowed to enter in your thoughts, planning and aspirations? When the Sequence is sung before the Gospel Acclamation, those words in particular should fall on our ears with the most weight, for “where you are not, we have naught.”

Selected Reflection Music

Hymnus: Veni, creator Spiritus

Posted By: Graduale Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5u7jTuDBgA4>

Contributor Introduction

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