

## **Pentecost: The never ending story**

Our tradition tells us that Pentecost began 50 days after Easter. Nowhere does it say that it ever ended.

*Pentecost* never stops.

*Pentecost* is the sister in Iraq teaching catechism to school children, whose young lives have been upended in a world of terror and war.

*Pentecost* is Father Peter Beaulieu in full PPE at St. Vincent's Hospital anointing the sick, comforting a struggling soul, completely cut off from their family.

*Pentecost* is the 80 year old grandmother who perseveres in praying for her adult grandchildren, who couldn't give a damn about Jesus or their Christian faith. But she prays, anyway, day in and day out.

*Pentecost* is the untiring work of Eve Lindquist at Visitation House who creates a safe place for mothers and their babies when family and "friends" are nowhere to be found.

*Pentecost* is the chorus of brave women and men who unmasked abuse in the church, in Hollywood, in athletics, in the Boy Scouts and in the military, guided by the Spirit of truth that sets us free.

*Pentecost* is Mother Theresa bathing the beggar, Father Damien giving Holy Communion to lepers, Maximilian

Kolbe stepping forward for the Jewish father at Auschwitz, and saying, "*Take me, instead!*"

*Pentecost* is the parent bringing their newborn to the font of Baptism and with the first splash of water, wondering, "*What grace will this child bring?*"

*Pentecost* is the thousands of young lives who are sealed with the gift of the Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation, yearning and struggling to live their faith as citizens of the 21st century.

*Pentecost* goes on every time we leave Mass carrying within ourselves, the Body of Christ, *becoming* the Body of Christ, to complete his work on earth.

Despite our weaknesses and our sinful history, the Spirit continues to abide with us, strengthen us and to uplift us. This Spirit raises up popes and saints, missionaries and martyrs, parents and prophets, healers and helpers.

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*Fr. Steven Labaire*