

Look What Blew into Town

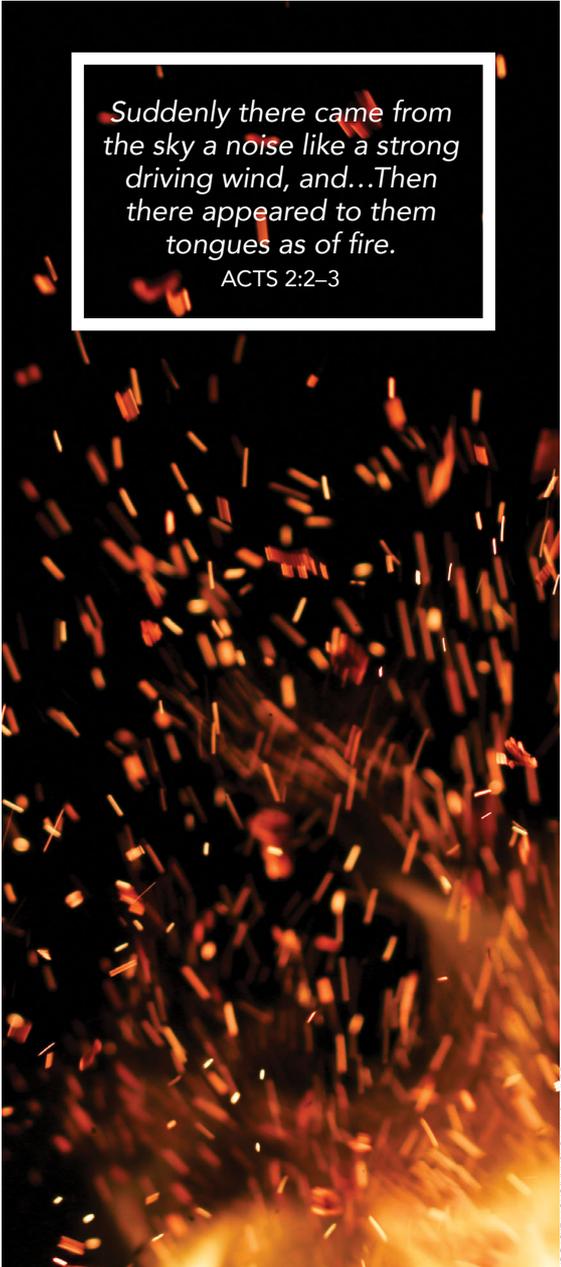
Did it really happen the way the story is told? Who would not give anything to have been there? But maybe we *have* been there. Maybe we have met people who were so open to the mysterious power of the Spirit of God that they were able to accomplish things they never thought they could. Maybe at times even we, too, have been so moved by that mysterious Spirit. Is it possible that we are mistaken about what is truly mysterious or Spirit-driven? Is it possible that we fail to see the mystery of God in everyday life?

This is not to say that nothing extraordinary happened on that Pentecost day. It certainly did! People who kept a low profile out of fear of facing the same deadly fate as their leader seemed to rush out onto the street and proclaim that leader's mighty acts. What has happened to them? How is such a reversal of behavior to be described? It happens that when something wondrous occurs we often use exaggerated images and superlative language in an attempt to capture the astounding character of the event. To embellish language does not mean that the event was not amazing. It means that it was so amazing that we are at a loss to describe or explain it. We are, after all, talking about the dynamic Spirit of God that can completely change people. This is the same Spirit we received at baptism. Are we open to have it change us?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Pray that you might be open to the Spirit working in the world through you.
- ★ What mighty works has God worked in you?



Suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and...Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire.

ACTS 2:2–3

Dear Padre,

I look forward to every Pentecost Sunday, when I am renewed in God's spirit. Recently I read an article that said the Holy Spirit is a she. Is the Holy Spirit female?

The third person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit. The word *spirit* is a translation of the Hebrew word *ruah*, which can mean "breath," "air," or "wind." This is the wind that God first sent to create the world, it is the breath that God breathed into Adam and Eve, and it is the tongues of fire that the apostles experienced on the first Pentecost.

In Hebrew, the word used for the Holy Spirit is feminine. In Greek, the word used is neuter, and in Latin, the word used is masculine. Not surprisingly, this caused a few problems for the early Church, which included many Hebrew, Greek, and Latin speakers. In areas where Hebrew or another Semitic language, such as Syriac, was spoken, the Holy Spirit was thought of as feminine, and so images of the Holy Spirit as mother were common. These various images of the Holy Spirit were openly expressed until about the fourth century, when Latin took over as the dominant language in the West.

We believe that in the life of the Trinity, God the Creator begets the Son. The expression of the love between God and the Son is the Holy Spirit. Perhaps we shouldn't think of the Holy Spirit as being either gender. Saint John describes the Holy Spirit as being God's love (see 1 John 4:7-13).

On this Pentecost and always, I wish you God's Spirit of love.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

As he did on Pentecost, the Lord wants to work one of the greatest miracles we can experience; he wants to turn your hands, my hands, our hands, into signs of reconciliation, of communion, of creation. He wants your hands to continue building the world of today. And he wants to build that world with you.

—PRAYER VIGIL WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, JULY 30, 2016

Calendar

Monday

JUNE 1

*Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church*

Gn 3:9-15, 20 or

Acts 1:12-14

Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday

JUNE 2

Weekday

2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18

Mk 12:13-17

Wednesday

JUNE 3

*St. Charles Lwanga
and Companions,
Martyrs*

2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12

Mk 12:18-27

Thursday

JUNE 4

Weekday

2 Tm 2:8-15

Mk 12:28-34

Friday

JUNE 5

*St. Boniface,
Bishop and Martyr*

2 Tm 3:10-17

Mk 12:35-37

Saturday

JUNE 6

Weekday

2 Tm 4:1-8

Mk 12:38-44

Sunday

JUNE 7

Most Holy Trinity

Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9

2 Cor 13:11-13

Jn 3:16-18