

May 24, 2015 Pentecost Sunday (B)

From The Desk of Msgr. Corrigan:

The apostles and disciples judged this day of Pentecost as the most important moment in their new ministry. Discouraged and frightened without the leadership of Jesus, their future looked very bleak. Then something extraordinary happened that gave them the courage to go out into the real world and tell people about the risen Jesus.

A key element in their success was the belief that the Spirit of God was with them. Despite the many setbacks, persecutions and failures, they kept going because of this belief.

We, the church, still believe that today. I was thinking of Pope Francis and his soon to be published encyclical on the Earth's Environment, more specifically the warming of the earth and its possible destruction. My first thoughts are that the people throughout the world will listen because everyone likes Pope Francis but nothing will actually be done. However there are two examples where we did listen and learn and changed. One was smoking cigarettes and the other was air pollution caused by sulfur. More than half of men regularly smoked cigarettes in 1965 and most of them thought smoking did not cause cancer. Fifty years later, 90% of the population, including smokers, thinks smoking causes cancer. 18% of the population now smokes. The second example, also highly successful, has been the reduction in air pollution that produces small particles that are harmful to health. From 1970 to 2014 sulfur dioxide emissions declined by 84%.

The great problem in slowing down the warming of the earth is that it must involve all the nations of the earth. That is where Pope Francis (named after Francis of Assisi) and the Catholic (which means worldwide) Church can be very helpful. Fifty years from now the problem will be obvious but it will be too late. Most will still say that solving the problem is impossible. However, if we believe that the Spirit of the Father and the Son is still with us, as it was on Pentecost, we must find the courage to leave our safe rooms and try to save the world.

In preparation for Pope Francis's talk to the United Nations and to the Congress of the United States in late September, let us learn more about possible solutions and keep praying in the Holy Spirit.

COLLECTION:

The collection for last Sunday, May 17, 2015 was \$2,897.00

The second collection today Sunday, May 24, 2015 will be for our Property Insurance.

Mother's Day Remembrance Plaque: please remember to pray for all the mothers on our Mother's Day Plaque in the back of the Church.

Pentecost Sunday:

As we gather on this final **Sunday** of the **Easter** season, celebrating what has been called the "**Birthday of the Church**", let us take the time to listen to the urgings of the **Spirit**, and to pray in gratitude for all that **God** has done and will yet do through this Church, **God's** holy people .

In the first reading, Acts 2:1-11: the **Holy Spirit** empowers the apostles to preach the gospel. Its message is for people of every nation

Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 104: "**Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth**".

In the second reading, 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13: Paul urges us to live by the **Spirit**. The **Spirit** will help us avoid evil and practice virtue.

In the Gospel, John 20:19-23: Jesus gives his disciples the gift of peace as he commissions them for ministry and empowers them by breathing on them the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

Today's Focus; Is the Bird Third?: Our prayers often include the first two persons of the **Trinity**, but many times they omit the **Holy Spirit**, the person of the **Trinity** who makes our prayer come to life!

Question of the Week:What evidence do I see of the work of the **Holy Spirit** in my own life and in the lives of others?

Praying with the Word: Come, **Holy Spirit**, and be our helper and guide. Fill us with the fire of love so that we might be true followers of **Jesus**.

God is always waiting for us, he always understands us, he always forgives us.

Religious Education News:

- ❖ The last class for all grades will be on Saturday June 6, 2015-All must attend.
- ❖ Confirmation: Wednesday May 27, 2015 at 7:00pm



Memorial Day Observance

May 25, 2015

10:30 am

At St. Mary's Cemetery

The Mass will be held on the porch of the Office building. (Please bring folding chairs if you wish to be seated.)

- ✚ In observance of Memorial Day the Rectory office will be closed this Monday May 25, 2015.