

June 8/9: The Solemnity of Pentecost: Pentecost Weekend: Formation

Readings: Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 104; 1 Cor. 12: 3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8: 8-17; John 20: 19-23 or John 14: 15-16, 23b-26.

Summary: All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit, who bears witness that we are children of God. That same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as gift to the disciples to teach them everything and to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord “to renew the face of the earth.”

Liturgical Orientation:

Pentecost both crowns and concludes the yearly celebration of Easter. The disciples are commissioned to proclaim the Good News to all creation, through the gift of the Spirit.

I. Acts 2: 1-11: *They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak.*

The bestowal of the Spirit on the first community takes the form of a dramatic scene. A representative group (all of Israel) hears the apostles. It is and will continue to be the activity of the Spirit that causes the infant church to grow.

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

II. 1 Cor. 12: 3b-7, 12-13: *In one spirit we were all baptized into one body.*

All of Paul’s hearers have made the same baptismal confession: Jesus is Lord. The body is the organic unity of the Christian community. Diversity is rooted in unity. The different members all share a common existence: life in Christ.

OR

Romans 8: 8-17: *Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

The Spirit, as the new principle of Christian vitality, is derived from “God,” the same source as all other manifestations of salvation. The baptized Christian is not only “in the Spirit,” but the Spirit is now said to dwell in him or her. The power vivifying the Christ is traced to its ultimate source, for the Spirit is the manifestation of the Father’s presence and power in the world since the resurrection of Christ and through it. The Spirit not only gives new life but also established for human beings the relationship of adopted son/daughter and heir. Material creation, hope itself, and the Spirit all bear witness to this glorious destiny.

Gospel: John 20: 19-23: *As the Father sent me, so I send you. Receive the Holy Spirit.*

The Spirit is given to the followers of Jesus that they might be disciples. The power of forgiveness is expressed in the bestowal of the Spirit on those who believe as a result of the disciples’ mission and who come to join the community.

OR

John 14: 15-16, 23b-26: *The Holy Spirit will teach you everything.*

The significance that any works of the disciples can have is the same as Jesus’ words: they must serve to testify to the unity between Jesus and the Father. Jesus will dwell in the community that keeps His word. The relationship that exists between Jesus and the Father is the relationship that exists between Jesus and His followers.

Stewardship Orientation:

This is the third weekend of the Stewardship renewal process and embraces the **3rd Pillar of Stewardship – Formation**. It is the time when, at every gathering of the community at Mass on this weekend, we celebrate in thanksgiving and gratitude the many diverse and unique gifts God has given the individuals in the community, as well as the community as a whole (communal gifts). The celebration usually focuses on gifts that are shared in the parish (particularly through parish ministries and activities), but needs to consider a more holistic application of gifts to all aspects of each individual’s life: family, workplace, community and the world.

Breaking Open the Word:

- ❖ In our parish community, where are the manifestations of the bestowal of the Spirit? Many of them (musicians, Eucharistic ministers) are obvious and visible; others take place in less public ways (parish outreach, catechists, home visitors, ministry of consolation). All of these people, placing themselves at the service of the community, reflect the *Joy of the Gospel* and the action of the Spirit.
- ❖ We are all uniquely gifted and with our own circumstances. Recognizing the diversity, our talents are placed at the service of the unity of the body of Christ that lives its life in this parish, in this community.
- ❖ During Lent people asked how they could “become holy?” We are reminded that the Spirit is given to us that we might be holy, that we might be followers of Jesus, that we embrace *dramatic missionary growth*. We are His hands and His heart as we share the power of the Spirit that is within each of us.
- ❖ In all that we do, in what ways are we committed to building up the unity of the body of Christ? How, while we work for unity, do we respect the diversity of persons and their gifts? In the parish? In the workplace? In our community?
- ❖ As sons and daughters of God, as people who have entered into a unique relationship with Jesus Christ, service to His body is not a privilege, but an obligation of all the baptized. How can I best foster my own **formation** as a steward?

Homilist's Notes:

