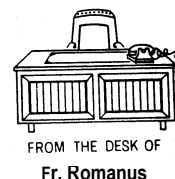


# Pentecost Sunday

May 13, 2018



Dear Parishioners,

## Pentecost:

The Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost this Sunday. It is recognized and celebrated as the birthday of the Church. It was remarkable that the Holy Spirit transformed a bunch of petrified disciples into courageous and determined evangelists, ready to die for their faith. The sending of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of Jesus' promise not to abandon his disciples or leave them as orphans. The Holy Spirit has sustained the Church's mission through the centuries, enabling her to navigate treacherous waters.

The celebration of Pentecost, fifty days after the resurrection, goes back to the early fourth century. There was connection between the celebration of Pentecost and the celebration of the Jewish festival of "First Fruits," also known as the "Feast of Weeks," which took place fifty days after the Passover. The separate celebration of Pentecost took place about the same time Ascension became a separate liturgical celebration forty days after the resurrection. This was in accordance with biblical presentations in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 1-2).

Speaking in tongues was one clear evident of the infusion of the Holy Spirit. The inspired and intelligible utterances of the transformed apostles contrasted with the unintelligible babble associated with the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11:1-9. Notwithstanding the fact that people spoke different languages, they understood the apostles' message inspired by the Holy Spirit. This was a major improvement when compared to the glossolalia or ecstatic and unintelligible pronouncements of Old Testament prophets. The Holy Spirit enables the breaking down of barriers to human unity and solidarity. Hence, we call on the Holy Spirit to help us to break down the barriers to unity and solidarity in our parish community.

We can hardly speak of Pentecost without mentioning the traditional gifts of the Holy Spirit based on Isaiah 11:2. The following are the celebrated gifts or fruits of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and the fear of the Lord.

The respected theologian, Hans Kung, once stated that before the Holy Spirit can truly take hold of our lives all contrary spirits must be exorcised (*Why I Am Still A Christian*, Abingdon Press, Nashville TN, 1987). Hence, we pray that all contrary spirits in our lives and community will take flight, so that God's Spirit may dwell secure. Let us also open our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit and be disposed to produce those essential fruits of the Holy Spirit. Without the presence of the Holy Spirit, we are no different from non-believers.

## Nomination for Trustee:

The term of office for our Trustee Treasurer, Julia Atkinson, has expired. On your behalf, I thank her for her service to our parish. She has also expressed a willingness to continue as parish trustee. Hence, I am pleased to nominate her to another term as trustee. Trustees serve a two-year staggered term to ensure continuity. The nomination process is now open.

Archdiocesan guidelines state that after the pastor makes the initial nomination, parishioners may nominate additional candidates in writing. Signatures of ten or more registered parishioners should accompany each nomination. The nominee must be Catholic, registered and practicing member of the parish, and at least 25 years of age. If there are other nominations in addition to the pastor's nomination, an election will take place. The winner becomes trustee only if approved by the Archbishop.

Have a great week!

Fr. Romanus