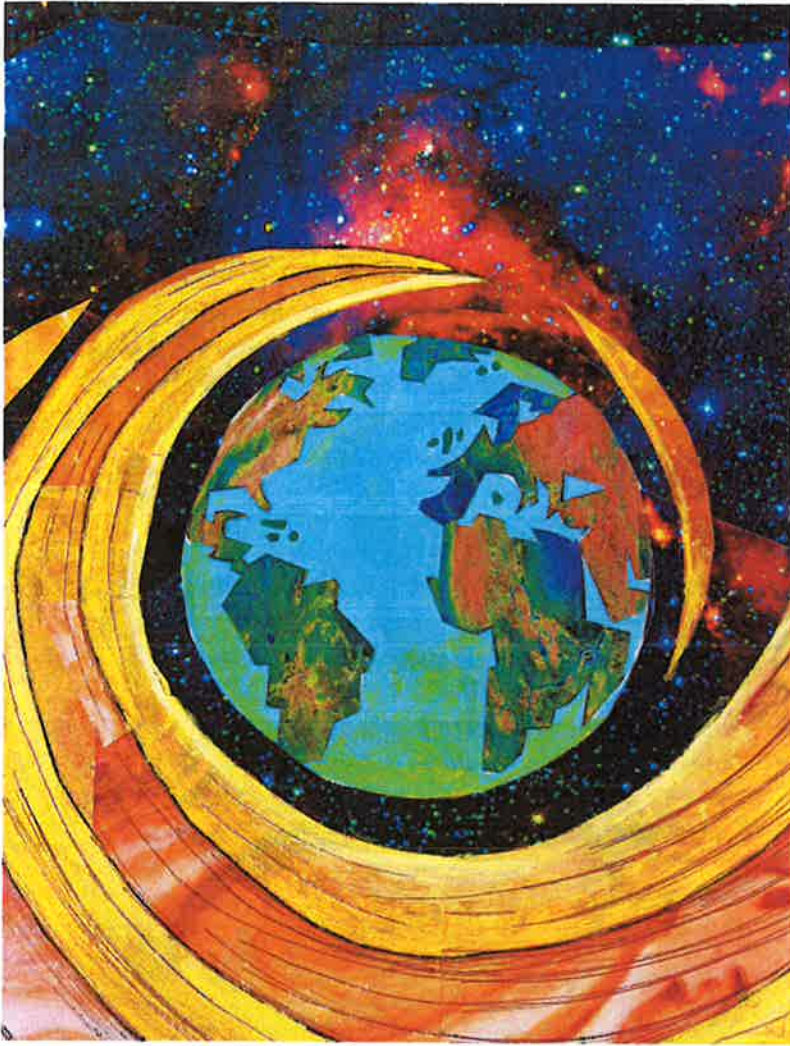


PENTECOST SUNDAY



A Life-Giving Love

Lord God,
you have breathed life into creation,
blessing all of the earth with the fire
of your love.
Be with us today as we rejoice
that through your Word and through
the Spirit,
the Church was brought to life
so that the world would hear the
Good News
of your saving love.
Keep us true to you
that we might bear the fruits
of the Spirit,
carrying out our work
with patience, gentleness, and joy.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sunday, May 24, 2015

Unity through the Spirit

Today's Readings: Acts 2:1–11; Psalm 104:1, 24, 29–30, 31, 34 (30); 1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Galatians 5:16–25; John 20:19–23 or John 15:26–27; 16:12–15. The readings for our Pentecost celebration might well leave us with a sense of awe. We hear of people filled with the Holy Spirit, of tongues of fire, of the Spirit guiding us to the truth, of Christ offering peace, and of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. There is much to absorb on this last day of the Easter season.

Each of today's readings tells of the unity that is part of life in the Spirit. In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles, the people are gathered in Jerusalem from many nations but still they hear one message. Both options for the Second Reading provide insight into the petition in the Eucharistic Prayer that we become "one body, one spirit in Christ." From 1 Corinthians, we hear that our Baptism

brings us into one body, the Body of Christ. The letter from Galatians is clear that those who live in the Kingdom of God bear the fruits of the spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

So, too, is there a sense of unity when Christ wishes the disciples peace in the account from John 20. Notice that Christ does not wish individual Apostles peace but the whole group. He breathes on all of the Apostles. He is sending them on the one mission to bring the Good News to the world. The Church is one just as the Father, Son, and Spirit are one. In the option for the Gospel from John 15, we hear of the unified work of the Trinity. Jesus tells the Apostles that he will send the Spirit from the Father. The Spirit will glorify Christ, just as we are to glorify Christ as we spread the Good News.



THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Now that the Easter season has ended, here are some memorials, feasts, and solemnities to look forward to during Ordinary Time.

Sunday, May 31, 2015

The Most Holy Trinity, Solemnity

Today's Readings: Deuteronomy 4:32–34, 39–40; Psalm 33: 4–5, 6, 9, 18–19, 20, 22 (12b); Romans 8:14–17; Matthew 28:16–20. The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity flows naturally from Pentecost. The Father having sent the Son, and the Father and the Son having sent the Holy Spirit, the three are now celebrated as a unity, as one God. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells the Apostles to baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is significant that we begin our lives as Christians invoking the Trinity. We must remember that we live in the communion of love that is the Trinity.

Sunday, June 7, 2015

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Today's Readings: Exodus 24:3–8; Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16, 17–18 (13); Hebrews 9:11–15; Mark 14:12–16, 22–26. The origins of this solemnity are rooted in the Eucharistic devotion of Juliana de Cornillon, between 1191 and 1192 in Liège, Belgium, where groups of women were dedicated to Eucharistic worship. In the year 1264, Pope Urban IV instituted this solemnity for the universal Church. Many parishes have a Eucharistic procession to observe Corpus Christi. If your parish does not have a procession, perhaps you could participate in a neighboring parish's procession.

Friday, June 12, 2015

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Today's Readings: Hosea 11:1, 3–4, 8c–9; Isaiah 12:2–3, 4, 5–6 (3); Ephesians 3:8–12, 14–19; John 19:31–37. The Sacred Heart of Jesus, aflame with an unquenchable fire, stands as a powerful symbol of Christ's unquenchable love for humanity. The prayer of St. Paul from today's Second Reading prays

“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.” God, who is beyond all understanding, truly loves us, and in the heart of Jesus this love has become binding for all ages. The Sacred Heart represents the faithful love God has for us, even though we have often strayed.

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Today's Readings: Isaiah 49:1–6; Psalm 139:1–3, 13–14ab, 14c–15 (14a); Acts 13:22–26; Luke 1:57–66, 80. When Zechariah announced that his son would be named John, all were amazed. As is stated in today's Gospel, it was apparent that the hand of the Lord was upon this baby. John would prepare the way of the Lord, pointing people to Christ. By the way we live, we should be showing people the way to Christ. How do your actions connect people to God?

Monday, June 29, 2015

Sts. Peter and Paul Apostles, Solemnity

Today's Readings: Acts 12:1–11; Psalm 34: 2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9 (5b); 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 17–18; Matthew 16:13–19. Peter, the first of the Apostles, suffered from human weakness, even in the presence of Jesus. Paul persecuted Christians until his life was changed when he encountered Jesus. Considering both of these men, we should never let our frailties keep us from working toward the kingdom. Today's readings speak of Paul being “poured out like a libation” and Peter as the rock of the Church. In what ways are you a rock for others?

Tuesday, July 14, 2015

St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

Today's Readings: Exodus 2:1–15a; Psalm 69:3, 14, 30–31, 33–34 (33); Matthew 11:20–24. Kateri was the first indigenous woman from North America to be canonized. Steadfast in her faith, she sought private instruction in Catholicism. Once baptized, she was persecuted. Still, she was devoted to the Eucharist and known for her life of prayer.

