

Cycle B Pentecost Sunday

Reading I, Acts 2:1-11

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his native language? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God."

Responsorial Psalm, Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! How manifold are your works, O LORD! the earth is full of your creatures;

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD be glad in his works! Pleasing to him be my theme; I will be glad in the LORD.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

R. Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Reading II, 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Brothers and sisters: No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

Gospel, Jn 20:19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

“Lord send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”

Today, on this feast of Pentecost we mark the end of the Easter season and celebrate Jesus sending the Holy Spirit into the world. Today’s Responsorial Psalm is a familiar prayer: *“Lord send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”* When we repeated it, however, I wonder if we were reminded of our role in it. You see, God loves us so much that He breathed His Spirit into us to fill the earth with His love and His power. When we are open to the Holy Spirit prompting us to act, the earth is renewed, forgiveness is granted, peace is restored and Christ is alive in our midst. It’s exciting!! It is a little bit of Heaven here on earth. And, invariably it is NOT what we had planned...but, we need to trust Him and respond to His call nonetheless.

Today St. Paul tells us in the 2nd reading that each of us has different spiritual gifts and different forms of service...but, it is not enough to be followers of Jesus gathering at Mass while we plod along in our ordinary lives. All of us here are on a journey with God, and we are each at a different place in our relationship with Him. Surely, we don’t just come to Church to observe or consume some blessings for lives empty of grace. No, we come so God can meet us and whisper to us right where we are...We come as St. Paul explained to the church in Corinth, despite their immoral and anything-goes culture. We come in our diversity to drink of the one Spirit...We are called to worship God and to celebrate all the grace-filled moments in our lives... we are called to actively become better servants and Apostles of Jesus by serving others.

Do you remember last year when Father Juan returned from his El Camino pilgrimage in Spain? He truly was renewed and filled with the Holy Spirit. Someone told me that we at St. Andrew need an El Camino experience. I know most of us couldn’t walk 10 or 20 miles a day, but I had an idea to form a pilgrimage to visit sacred Catholic sites in Portugal and Spain that most of us could take part in. And so, a year from now we’re going on a pilgrimage. Save the Date next year: June 2025...30 of us from St. Andrew will listen to the whispers of the Holy Spirit and encounter the Risen Christ in Portugal and Spain. We will travel on a motorcoach roughly following the “Camino Portuguese Coastal” trail by visiting towns between Lisbon and Santiago de Compostela. And yes, we will have the chance to walk on the El Camino trail.

Keep an eye open for bulletin announcements and a presentation in early July covering the pilgrimage details.

“Lord send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”

We shouldn't be surprised when the Holy Spirit calls us. Everything positive we do adds up, even the small deeds, and like the Apostles, prepares us for even more. As the 2nd reading says, *“to each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit.”* Each of us has different gifts and He whispers to us to perform different service, but we are called by the same Holy Spirit, for benefits that sometimes only He knows.

Each one of us needs to understand how significant we are in God's great plan and how we play an important role in the lives of those around us. The way we deal with life is significant and important for those who know us. Life can be unfair. Life can be difficult. Life can bring suffering with it... sometimes a lot of suffering. How we deal with it will be very significant to any number of people who know us. But life has its joys, too. Life brings good fortune and happiness as well. How we handle success, along with the generosity in our hearts, can be of great significance to people who know us. How we uniquely handle both success and suffering does have a significant impact on others.

“Lord send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”

You know, we may never know what significance we have in the hearts and souls of people who know us. We many never know how our faith has built up the faith of those around us... especially members of our family or our close friends. We may not realize what God is doing with our life. But God knows...He knows our importance, our significance, even though we may not realize it ourselves.

Today we are honoring a significant man, David Peter Pozzetta. He was a man who recognized how important his Catholic faith was, and how blessed he was being a part of our St. Andrew community. So, he decided to bequeath a gift of over a million dollars to St. Andrew! No doubt, Mr. Pozzetta had a BIG heart for others. A heart that that BIG didn't just grow over night. It

grew that BIG because during his 85 years here on earth the Holy Spirit and the Risen Christ were active throughout his life. I'm sure he never fully comprehended the significance he had in the hearts and souls of the people who knew him...none of us do. And, I wonder if he had any idea how his faith would build up the faith of us here at St. Andrew as we continue to benefit each year from the additional endowment fund gift he gave us as a lasting legacy. So today, we honor Mr. Pozzetta with a lasting tribute: after Mass we will dedicate our plaza at the front of the church in his name, Pozzetta Plaza. May the generations of St. Andrew's parishioners remember him, bless him, and serve others to honor him far into the future.

We here live privileged lives...St. Andrew is debt free! Let us leave this celebration with generous hearts to go in peace, sent by Jesus, glorifying God with our lives as servants and Apostles of Jesus... glorifying God as we hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit in the unmerited, grace-filled moments of our unique and special lives. Whether it is on a pilgrimage, or here at Mass, or walking across our Pozzetta Plaza, or living a legacy of serving others, we will have many opportunities to hear the whispers of the Holy Spirit. That's how we will come to know Jesus and love Him...and that's how we will be empowered to flood the earth with His love and mercy and grace to serve others.

“Lord send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.”