

## PENTECOST SUNDAY May 31, 2020

A few quick facts to discuss:

- Pentecost marks the official end of the Easter Season.
- The Liturgical color of Pentecost is Red (most students learned about the Liturgical Calendar, and what the colors represent).
- Pentecost is the Birthday of the Church!
- It is the day the Lord sent down the **Holy Spirit** to help us to live a good and holy life.

The Gospel on Pentecost tells us the Good News that not only are we going to heaven, but because we've been empowered by the Holy Spirit we become new people, renewed.

Just compare the apostles before and after Pentecost to see the difference the Holy Spirit makes.

Our Catholic faith teaches us that we are all called to the highest of holiness. Holiness consists in faith, hope, and especially divine love. These virtues (we studied) are literally, "powers" given by the Spirit.

The Spirit also gives us further gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, to make it possible for ALL of us to live a good, fruitful and holy life.

This holy life also teaches us that every Christian has a vocation to serve. We need power/help for this too. These gifts are not given to us so much as for our own benefit as it is to serve others.

The Holy Spirit sends ALL of us special graces! I explain how the Holy Spirit is like our own spiritual GPS (they all know about Navigation Systems, technology, etc.). I call upon the Spirit often to help me make good decisions, to give me the right words when speaking, to help me pray and live a faithful life. There is rarely a need I have that I do not call upon the great graces of the Holy Spirit!

As adults, we might not have "gotten it" when we were confirmed (we are hoping our confirmandi got it). But we actually did get the Spirit and his gifts we just might not have fully understood what that means and how the Holy Spirit can impact our daily lives.

- One more example: We have all probably received new credit cards with a sticker that says, "Must call to activate before using." The Holy Spirit and his gifts are the same way. You have to call in and activate them!

The Spirit wants to be called, everyday, and especially when we attend Mass. Because every sacramental celebration is a New Pentecost where the Spirit and his gifts are poured out to all to receive.



