



Bringing Home the Word

Pentecost (C)
June 5, 2022

Experience the Gift of the Holy Spirit

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

In his bestseller *The 5 Love Languages*, Gary Chapman points out that among the five ways people show love, a common one is to give gifts. Perhaps Jesus' love language was giving gifts, because he sure did it a lot! He gave sight to the blind, power to the weak, food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, faith to the faithless, and love to the lonely.

Jesus wants to give us the Holy Spirit. We've read in Acts how the power of this gift of the Spirit transformed the early Church. Jesus wants to do the same for us.

Sunday Readings

Acts 2:1-11

Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them.

1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Romans 8:8-17

In one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons.

John 20:19-23 or John 14:15-16, 23b-26

Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

When we were baptized, we received the Holy Spirit, and at confirmation we said yes to his spiritual gifts more completely. Yet for many, the power of the Holy Spirit is a pious thought rather than something we experience daily.

Here are a few ways to open your heart to the Sanctifier's inspirations: First, be grateful for God's gifts and inspirations. St. Thérèse of Lisieux said, "What most attracts God's grace is gratitude, because if we thank him for a gift, he is touched and hastens to give us ten more." Second, practice detachment. If we cling to our possessions, viewpoints, and ourselves, there's little room for the Spirit to move us. Third, ask God for inspiration—then listen. God doesn't usually force himself on us, so ask him to come in more powerfully! Then practice a little silence and listen. You'll be surprised at how the Holy Spirit speaks to you! +

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A Word from Pope Francis

The first advice offered by the Holy Spirit is, "Live in the present." The present, not the past or the future. The Paraclete affirms the primacy of today, against the temptation to let ourselves be paralyzed by rancor or memories of the past, or by uncertainty or fear about the future.

Pentecost Mass, May 23, 2021



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- What makes you feel better: avoiding a task or accomplishing it?
- How does the Holy Spirit speak to you?

May the Force Be With You

By Paige Byrne Shortal

Several years ago I spent some time in India. One evening my hostess invited me to watch *The Bucket List* with her. Try to picture us: two women, one Hindu and one Catholic, unknown to each other until a month earlier, watching a movie about two men with terminal cancer who spend their last six months doing things they always wanted to do before they “kick the bucket.” Poonam and I sat late into the night discussing our own “bucket lists” and found we had much in common.

What do I want to do before I die? For that matter, what do I want to do before summer ends? Too often it flies by and come September I mourn that I only went swimming twice and I missed the cherry harvest, and I didn’t even begin a certain writing project.

Why do we not do what we want to do? This phenomenon isn’t limited to distasteful projects. I even put off tasks I enjoy. It’s not so much the work that’s daunting, it’s the starting. I don’t have a scientific mind, but when I learned of Isaac Newton’s first law of motion, I had an aha moment. The first part says that a body at rest, or moving at a constant speed in a straight line, will remain at rest, or keep moving in that straight line. Aha! That’s why it’s hard to get going or change. We’re like Newton’s inanimate objects, tending to continue as we are—purposeful and productive or on the couch watching reruns of *This Old House* while scrolling through Facebook.



The cure for boredom and mindless distraction by day and wide-eyed, heart-thumping panic by night is engagement—the flow of meaningful work and the feeling of competence while we do it. But sometimes a malaise settles over a person and it’s hard to get moving. As Newton explained in the second part of his first law of motion, that body at rest or moving in a straight line will get moving or change direction only when acted upon by an “unbalanced force.”

What’s an unbalanced force? Any force strong enough to get us moving in a new direction—or moving at all. Sometimes it takes a crisis, like a cancer diagnosis, or a job loss, or any serious trouble, to compel us to move in a new

direction. But sometimes a New Year’s resolution or making a “bucket list” will do the trick.

The ultimate unbalanced force, the Force that can knock us off our pins and set us right again, is the Holy Spirit. God didn’t create us to be slaves to safe routines and mindless amusements until this precious life is over. God made us for freedom and instilled in us a longing for meaning, a sense that our lives matter very much. We’re here to reveal—indeed to be—a face of God otherwise never known to this world. God sends the Holy Spirit to work in us, to help each of us become our true self before this life ends and we go home to heaven.

Meanwhile, the summer stretches before us. What’s on your list of things to do before summer kicks the bucket? +

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**PRAYER**

*Lord, you send forth your Spirit.
Teach me to walk your
way of love and compassion
in hope and gratitude.*

—From *Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of
Easter Through Pentecost*, Rev. Warren J. Savage
and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

June 6–11

Monday, Blessed Virgin Mary:
Gn 3:9–15, 20 or Acts 1:12–14 / Jn 19:25–34

Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 17:7–16 / Mt 5:13–16

Wednesday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 18:20–39 / Mt 5:17–19

Thursday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 18:41–46 / Mt 5:20–26

Friday, Weekday:
1 Kgs 19:9a, 11–16 / Mt 5:27–32

Saturday, St. Barnabas:
Acts 11:21b–26; 13:1–3 / Mt 5:33–37

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