



# Bringing Home the Word

**Pentecost Sunday (B)**

**May 19, 2024**

## Tongues of Fire

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

When I was a child, I thought the flames I saw atop the heads of the apostles in pictures depicting Pentecost turned them into living candles. That certainly is what the images suggested. Only many years later did I come to realize that was exactly what had happened: the Spirit of God set them on fire.

In both the Old and New Testaments, the phrase “Spirit of God” refers to the dynamic power of God at work in the world. To be filled with the Spirit is to operate with this dynamic power. Today’s first reading tells us that those in the

house “filled with the holy Spirit” began fearlessly to tell of “the mighty acts of God” (Acts 2:4, 11). They were indeed set on fire.

This Spirit might be dynamic, even forceful, but it is not violent or destructive. The sequence for the feast lists some of the ways we experience the Spirit of God: the Spirit enlightens and comforts us; refreshes us and lets us rest; heals our wounds and washes away our guilt; softens hearts that are stubborn and melts hearts that are cold; grants us gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. This is a Spirit of gentle and loving power. It is a Spirit that transforms us so that we, in turn, might transform our world. In other words, it sets us on fire so that we too might fearlessly tell of “the mighty acts of God.” †

## Sunday Readings

### Acts 2:1–11

And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were.

**1 Corinthians 12:3b–7, 12–13 or Galatians 5:16–25**

[T]here are different forms of service but the same Lord.

**John 20:19–23 or John 15:26–27; 16:12–15**

But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth.

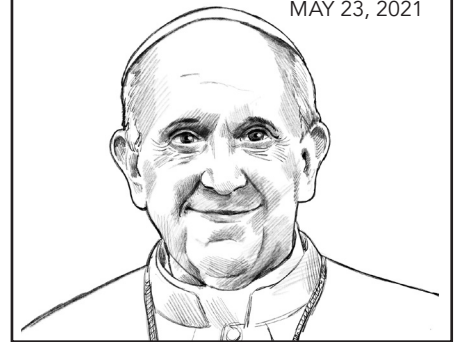
***The Holy Spirit transforms us  
so that we, in turn,  
might transform our world.***



## A Word from Pope Francis

The Spirit is asking us to embody the comfort he brings. How can we do this?... Not with trite words, but with prayer and closeness. Let us remember that closeness, compassion and tenderness are God’s “trademark,” always. The Paraclete is telling the Church that today is *the time for comforting*.

HOMILY, ST. PETER’S BASILICA,  
MAY 23, 2021



## REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How is the Spirit of God working through me?
- What gift of the Spirit am I praying for?

# Discovering Our Mission

Rev. Warren J. Savage and  
Mary Ann McSweeney

We all have a special calling or mission. We are drawn to a way of life that gives us a sense of purpose. Some people feel called to raise a family, to become an educator, a social worker, an engineer, a scientist, a doctor, a nurse, a lawyer, an electrician, a carpenter, a law enforcement officer, an accountant, a politician, a spiritual leader, a musician, or an artist. It takes time to discern our calling in life. We need to observe and work with others to get a sense of what we would like to become. Our calling in life is not about ourselves; it is connected to a universal vision of a world in which all people can live and work together in



love and peace. Inherent in our calling is a common desire to serve people, to improve the quality of life, and to teach others what we have learned.

After Jesus rose from the dead and before he ascended into heaven, he gave his disciples a mission to carry out. Their mission was to be a sign of Jesus' presence in the world, to gather people together into one family, and to teach them how to love one another. At baptism, we received the same mission. God's mission must be reflected in our lives and in our work. We have been called in the risen Jesus to be God's presence, to build community, to love and serve others. †

*From Hopeful Meditations for Every Day of Easter Through Pentecost* by Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney, (821417) available at [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org).

## Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Who Is the Holy Spirit" by Elizabeth A. Johnson

Who is God? A typical Catholic woman or man would probably answer this question by referring to God the Father and to Jesus Christ. A few might speak of God as "Mother." Only the rare person would answer, "The Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is often forgotten among Catholic Christians, especially in the Western world. To downplay the Holy Spirit is to diminish our sense of God's presence and activity among us in the world today. For the Holy Spirit is God's own self in outreach to the world. The Holy Spirit is God's presence and activity among us. The Holy Spirit is God continuously drawing near and passing by to vivify, renew, and love us and all of creation. †

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*Lord Jesus, fill us with your Spirit and give us this day what we need to be fearless, truthful, loving witnesses to the gospel, we pray. Amen! Alleluia!*

The Redemptorists

## WEEKDAY READINGS

May 20–25

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

**Tuesday**, Weekday: Jas 4:1–10 / Mk 9:30–37

**Wednesday**, Weekday:  
Jas 4:13–17 / Mk 9:38–40

**Thursday**, Weekday:  
Jas 5:1–6 / Mk 9:41–50

**Friday**, Weekday:  
Jas 5:9–12 / Mk 10:1–12

**Saturday**, Weekday:  
Jas 5:13–20 / Mk 10:13–16

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