

**“Renew Your wonders in this our day,  
as by a new Pentecost.”** St. John XXIII

San Ignacio de Loyola Parish

May 24, 2015

## REFLECTION ON THE WORD

**T**his solemnity of Pentecost is truly a celebration of life, of being recreated in the risen life of Jesus by the descent of the Holy Spirit upon us. Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit into the disciples and by doing so he re-creates them. The life-giving breath poured forth at the dawn of creation is now the Spirit-breath, the very indwelling of God. Only because of this divine indwelling do we have the power to forgive and thus continue Jesus' saving mission.



We are the incarnation of the risen Lord in our world today. We are re-created by the Holy Spirit and the sign of this re-creation is forgiveness.

**Words to reflect upon: the sign of this recreation is forgiveness**

**LORD, SEND OUT YOUR SPIRIT,  
AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.**

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people,*

*1 Timothy 2:1*

**LET US PRAY TOGETHER TODAY FOR** the chronically ill: Sylvia Tasner, Fr. Vega, Albert and Jerry Vega, Rudy & Sonia Méndez, **Maggie Maziarz**, and Peter Fiorito. *Let us pray together as a community this week that God will help us to open our hearts to receive the grace of freedom and openness to his will for us. May we be blown and enfolded by the Spirit!*

**Prayers  
please**

## LIVING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

The Spirit is not a Gift like other gifts we might receive—open them, appreciate and use them, wear them out or discard them. The Spirit is given us so that we may carry out God's saving mission. *The more we respond to the Spirit's indwelling, the more we are immersed in God's very love.* The choice to love becomes more clear, more focused. The Spirit brings us to a single-mindedness about our love.

Sometimes in our lives we might witness to a powerful presence of the Spirit. Perhaps we must stand up for injustice or challenge another to more ethical and generous living. Sometimes in our lives we might witness to a gentler, relational Spirit. Perhaps we spend extra quality time with the children, or visit elderly relatives and bring them some cheer, or help someone pick up the pile of oranges which has come tumbling down in the grocery. *The Spirit works through us in both the great and the simple acts and moves us from “if” to “I can.” “I choose.” “I will.”*

**Words to reflect upon: the Spirit works through us to peace...**



**Alleluia! Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit,  
fill the hearts of your faithful  
and kindle in us the fire of your love.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**“Peace is always possible, and we have to seek it,**

**... May there never again be wars,  
but always the desire and commitment to peace  
and fraternity among peoples, . . .**

**Prayer is at the root of peace . . .”**

*Pope Francis, January 1, 2015*

## TODAY IS OUR BIRTHDAY!

### The Birthday of the Church! We get presents!

WISDOM, UNDERSTAND, COUNSEL  
FORTITUDE, KNOWLEDGE, PIETY AND  
FEAR OF THE LORD

### BLESSED ARE YOU LORD OF ALL GIFTS!

#### THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

These are the gifts the Spirit gives us as part of bettering our lives in general and specifically for the life of following Christ. **Wisdom** enables us to see God at work in our lives and in the whole world; being able to see God in everyone and everything everywhere.

**Understanding** enables us to comprehend how we need to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. Thomas Aquinas called understanding “the gift whereby self-evident principles are known”. **Counsel** (Right Judgment) enables us to know the difference between right and wrong, to discern what we should do in a particular circumstance. **Fortitude**

(Courage) gives us the moral courage to overcome our fear and take risks standing up for what is right, resisting evil and doing good. **Knowledge** is a gift that allows us to see the circumstances of our life as God sees them, albeit in a more limited way, and helps us to discern God’s purpose in our lives and his reason for placing us in our particular circumstances.

**Piety** (Reverence) is a gift of instinctive affection for God that disposes us to want to give God the worship and service he deserves. **Fear of the Lord** (Wonder and Awe in His presence) is the desire not to offend God, much like the respect we have for our parents. We do not wish to offend them, but we also do not live in fear of them, in the sense of being frightened of them. The Fear of the Lord is not servile but filial, not a fear of punishment but a true desire not to fail him.

According to Aquinas, wisdom, understanding, knowledge and counsel are gifts that direct the intellect while fortitude, piety and fear of the Lord direct the will toward God.

**Let us open our hearts in gratitude  
to receive the Spirit!**



## THE LITURGICAL CORNER

On Pentecost we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit with us. The liturgical color is red symbolizing the flames of fire that came upon the disciples and the fire of God’s Spirit in our own lives. The solemnity of Pentecost brings to a climax the 50-day celebration of Easter. Tomorrow, the Monday after Pentecost, returns us to the second part of the divided season of Ordinary Time.

### Algeria and the Face of God

Last Sunday, May 21st, was an important anniversary recalling how on that date in 1996, a group of Islamic terrorists announced that they had “slit the throats” of seven French Trappist monks they had kidnapped from the monastery of Tibherine in Algeria and held as hostages for two months during the long Algerian civil war. The superior of



the monastery, Father Christian de Cherge, had left with his family a testament “to be opened in the event of my death”, which was published after his murder. It is a remarkable account of

a remarkable life of transformative witness and of the even more remarkable way he met his death.

He wrote, “I ask them to be able to link this death with the many other deaths which were just as violent, but forgotten through indifference and anonymity. My life has no more value than any other. Nor any less value. In any case it has not the innocence of childhood. I have lived long enough to know that I am an accomplice in the evil which seems, alas, to prevail in the world, even in that which would strike me blindly. I should like, when the time comes, to have the moment of lucidity which would allow me to beg forgiveness of God and of my fellow human beings, and at the same time to forgive with all my heart the one who would strike me down.”

Noting this anniversary, your editor thinks of the similarities in this Algerian story and the hatred and the fear surrounding today’s Islamic State attacks. She also remembers Fr. Vega telling us a few weeks ago that “we love because we can”. Surely on this Pentecost day, filled with the Gift of the Spirit, we can do no less than think about such things as these and remember that the Spirit is really at work in our world and doing new things. Let us rejoice! Be open! Let our lives be transformed to transform our world into the kingdom of God.