

LIVING FAITH

PENTECOST

May 23, 2021



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Acts 2:1-11

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.'

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a transformative event. Like a violent wind or a sparking fire, the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples of Jesus from a fearful group of people into bold proclaimers of the Good News. The sound of the violent wind must have startled the disciples. The flames too must have bewildered them. And yet they came through more resilient, focused, emboldened and stronger in their faith in the Risen Christ.

In these uncertain times, that can be not only unsettling but also fear inducing, cannot the Holy Spirit come to us as well? When our present circumstances threaten our way of life and feel overwhelming - on both a global and local scale – we can remember Pentecost, and know in faith that the Holy Spirit is working even in the midst of circumstances that are bringing change and transformation no less epic in scope than that of wind and fire in nature.

Today's passage in John's Gospel is referred to the "Johannine Pentecost". There, Jesus' greeting when he appears is "Peace be with you." Jesus tells his disciple that in the midst of such transformative change, he both wishes and gives peace. What a gift peace is in turbulent, transformative times! In our days, in the midst of change, may we too have peace, indeed may all people have peace.

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- How—or where-- do you see the Holy Spirit present and acting in our world today?
- How do you recognize this presence or movement of the Holy Spirit?
- The Holy Spirit always brings gifts. What gift of the Holy Spirit do you pray for?



The Day of Pentecost

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Acts 2:4 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



I	Z	X	B	Q	D	M	T	A	U	J	C	W	V	K	E	R	S	H	F	L	P	G	N	O	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 18-25-10-24-6 _____
- 13-1-24-6 _____
- 20-1-21-21 _____
- 19-25-10-18-16 _____
- 20-1-17-16 _____
- 19-25-21-26 _____
- 18-22-1-17-1-8 _____
- 18-22-16-9-15 _____
- 21-9-24-23-10-9-23-16 _____
- 19-16-9-14-16-24 _____

WIND	SPEAK	HOLY	SPIRIT	LANGUAGE
FIRE	SOUND	HOUSE	FILL	HEAVEN

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Fruit of the Spirit

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! (Galatians 5:22-23)

FOR YOUR REFLECTION, AND DISCUSSION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

How is the Holy Spirit active in your life?

What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you need to help you live fully, especially in the midst of this pandemic?

What signs or fruits of the Holy Spirit do you recognize in yourself and the way you live?

What fruits of the Holy Spirit do you recognize in others?

AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY YEAR 2021-2022

Pope Francis was asked: No one is destined to be alone Holy Father How is a family born?

It is born out of an encounter between an I and a you, of a man and a woman who discover each other and heal their solitude. No one is destined to be alone. We have been thought of by Another to be a gift of love for someone and to generate life in love". "This encounter, which relieves man's solitude, gives rise to new birth and to the family. [...] 'The man shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one'. [...] The very word 'to be joined' or 'to cleave', in the original Hebrew, bespeaks a profound harmony, a closeness both physical and interior. [...] The marital union is thus evoked not only in its sexual and corporal dimension, but also in its voluntary self-giving in love". AL 13

"The couple that loves and begets life is a true, living icon – not an idol like those of stone or gold prohibited by the Decalogue – capable of revealing God the Creator and Saviour. For this reason, fruitful love becomes a symbol of God's inner life. [...] The ability of human couples to beget life is the path along which the history of salvation progresses. Seen this way, the couple's fruitful relationship becomes an image for understanding and describing the mystery of God himself". AL 11

PRAYER FOR SPOUSES

Praise to you, Lord,
who gave us to each other as spouses
and who have made us
living images of your Love.
Help us grow every day in our ability
of sincerely looking at each other,
of listening to each other attentively,
of speaking in truth to each other,
of offering each other signs of acceptance,
of attention, of love.
Grant us, O Lord, the gift of being able
to marvel at the beauty of our spousal love.

Amen.



"The family is called to join in daily prayer, to read the word of God and to share in Eucharistic communion, and thus to grow in love and become ever more fully a temple in which the Spirit dwells". AL 29

X WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

"FAMILY LOVE: A VOCATION AND A PATH TO HOLINESS"

Pope Francis has chosen this theme for the next World Meeting of Families, which will take place in Rome in June 2022. "Family love: a vocation and a path to holiness." As the announcement from the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life reads: "On the fifth anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* and three years after the promulgation of *Gaudete et Exsultate*, this is intended to highlight family love as a vocation and as a way of holiness, so as to understand and share the profound and salvific meaning of family relationships in daily life."

The meeting will be organized by the Diocese of Rome and the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life. The communication of the Dicastery for the Laity, Family, and Life explains that, in giving shape to the concrete experience of love, "marriage and the family manifest the great value of human relationships, in the sharing of joys and hardships and in the unfolding of daily life, which guides people towards an encounter with God. This journey, when lived with fidelity and perseverance, strengthens love and realizes the vocation to holiness, proper to every person, which is made concrete in conjugal and family relationships. In this sense, Christian family life is a vocation and a way of holiness, an expression of the 'most beautiful face of the Church' (*Gaudete et Exsultate* 9)"

For more information: www.diocesidiroma.it/roma2022