

LANGUAGE OF LOVE AND HARMONY!

Gen. 11:1-9; Rom. 8:22-27; Jn. 7:37-39; Acts 2:1-11; Rom. 8:8-17; Jn. 20:19-23

You all will agree with me that in the last decade or so, Americans have had to learn to understand the accented English of priests like me, from Africa, Asia and other places. When I arrived here initially it was difficult for the parishioners to understand my accent. For many it was a challenge to understand my English, but they loved me anyway. Some are still struggling to understand me and other African priests, but they still love us in spite of this "speaking in different tongues." Indeed, communication can be challenging and frustrating, but the feast of Pentecost teaches us that the Law of Jesus Christ - Love - is the basis of understanding. "Father, may they be one as You and I are One." The common language for us Christians, therefore, is that of mutual love, unity, understanding and peace. This is the language given to us by the many gifts of the Holy Spirit.

In the Book of Genesis, we read that the "Breath of God" brought life to humanity. You or I can resuscitate a person and bring him/her back to life by breathing into them. God's breath is a source of life! In Saint John's Gospel, Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Today, we celebrate the feast of Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit - bringing new life to His people, and thereby beginning His Church here on earth. The Holy Spirit is God's Breath to us!

Pentecost is a Greek word, *pentekoste*, which means *the fiftieth day*. The feast of Pentecost is originally a Jewish feast, called *Shavout* in Hebrew, which was originally celebrated in Jerusalem. For over 3000 years, the Jews had been celebrating Pentecost, *feast of harvest* - when the first fruits were offered in gratitude to God (see Tobit 2:1; Macc. 12:32). Over time, Pentecost took on a religious significance for the Jews - a feast that commemorated the day God gave *the Torah*, the Law, to the Israelites through Moses at Mount Sinai (see Exodus 19:1). It was in receiving the Torah (the Law) that Israel became a nation. The Jews were celebrating the feast of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus' Disciples. Thus, the Christian's Pentecost story is a mirror of the Jewish experience. Pentecost marks the end of Eastertide and the birth of the Church! Just as Israel became a nation through the reception of *the Torah*, the Law, Christians become the Church through the reception of the Holy Spirit.

In the beginning, "The whole world spoke the same language, using the same words." The reading from Genesis 11:1-9 tells the story of the Tower of Babel to emphasize the destructive nature of human pride and aspirations which have so disorientated our world that division, disunity, discrimination and hatred between human beings has become endemic. Our world is divided! At Babel, different languages splintered human beings who tried to raise themselves to God. Conversely, at Pentecost, the kingdom of God has found a new harmony. On Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the mystery of peoples of different nations and languages - Africans, Americans, Asians, etc. - bonded together by the Holy Spirit. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes to restore unity and harmony in a divided world. People from different nationalities can understand one another speaking in their own *native language*. The language of a Christian in a divided world like ours, must not be anything but love, unity, harmony and peace. Pentecost is not about speaking in different tongues, hence St. Paul says: "If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal" (1Cor. 13:1). Pentecost is about building bridges of love where there is hatred - bridges of unity where there is disharmony - bridges of peace where there is conflict and war. Lord, send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth with love, peace, harmony and unity.

Rev. Anthony Ita Bassey, MSP

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU TO DEACON BOB CLEMENS ON HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS OUR DEACON HERE AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S PARISH! MAY GOD BLESS HIM TODAY AND ALWAYS!



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL: The Parish Pastoral Council will meet this Monday, May 20th, at 7:00 p.m. in the school. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

The **ALTAR FLOWERS** are donated this week in loving memory of Gabriel Nanoia by Louis and Angela Brusco.



The **ALTAR BREAD & WINE, ALTAR CANDLES, and SANCTUARY LAMP** for this week have been donated in loving memory of Gabriel Nanoia by Louis and Angela Brusco.

Registrations are now being accepted for the 2013/2014 Religious Education program beginning in September. Classes are available for children in First Grade through High School, who wish to prepare for Baptism, First Communion and/or Confirmation. Please call Cheryl Duda (476-6676) to schedule a registration appointment if your child is new to the program. Children currently enrolled are reminded to return their re-registration forms this week.



CHILDREN'S MASS: Please make it a point to bring your child to our Children's Mass next Sunday. The 10 a.m. Mass will focus on our children. The Parish Children's Choir will sing at the Mass. The children are encouraged to sit together with other children at a designated place during the Mass.

The Annual Parish Picnic sponsored by the Holy Name Society is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd, at St. Joseph's Seminary from 12 noon to 5 p.m. Please plan on attending this great family day.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION - RCIA

Do you know a non-Catholic adult who wishes to explore the Catholic faith; or a Catholic who has never received First Communion or been Confirmed? Please help spread the word that we have a program tailored to these adults. This is an ideal time to inquire about our program. Call Cheryl Duda at 476-6676.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

The ASSOCIATE MISSIONARIES OF ST. PAUL (AMSP) will meet on **Wednesday, May 22nd**, at **7 p.m.** in the school building. New members are always welcome.

The AMSP are Catholic men and women who actively support the missionary work of the Missionary Society of St. Paul through their prayers, moral support, and financial assistance. They are also involved in works of charity supporting the people in mission countries. Among their aims and objectives they strive to imitate St. Paul and carry the teachings of St. Paul about Christ to people's doorsteps through works of evangelization. They commit themselves in love striving to revive and strengthen those parts of the Church that are weak and make them self-reliant. Membership is open to every baptized and confirmed Catholic.



"Lord, send out Your Spirit and renew the face of the earth." Let the Holy Spirit heal and renew your marriage/Holy Orders. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is August 9-11. For more information, call toll free (877) 697-9963, ext. 3 or visit www.wmearchny.org.

Couples celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime during 2013 are invited to attend the **Annual Golden Wedding Jubilee Mass** with Cardinal Dolan at St. Patrick Cathedral, **Sunday, June 23rd**, at 2 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Please contact our Rectory Office for more information. **The deadline for registrations for the Mass is Tuesday, June 4th**. This event is sponsored by the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of New York.

WEDDING JUBILEE MASS & CELEBRATION

St. Bartholomew's couples who are celebrating their **25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary** anytime this year (2013) are invited to attend the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 9th. They will be blessed and honored during the Mass which will be followed by a Reception in the McManus Parish Center. Please call the Rectory to register and tell us how many guests you might be expecting at the Reception



YOUTH MINISTRY Our **Parish Youth Group** will meet this Sunday, May 19th, in the Msgr. McManus Parish Center immediately following the 5 p.m. Mass. All youths age 13 and up are invited.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA: Held after the 9 a.m. Mass on Mondays.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTION: Held the First Friday of every month at 1 p.m. Please join us when you are able.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION: Held the First Saturday of every month at 3 p.m. All are encouraged to participate.

RECITATION OF THE ROSARY: Join your fellow parishioners in praying the Rosary after the 9 a.m. Mass on weekdays and Saturdays



TITHING - GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

May 13, 2012	
Adults' Contribution	\$5382.35
Children's Contribution	\$111.90
Last Year's Total	\$5494.25

May 12, 2013	
Adults' Contribution	\$5642.35
Children's Contribution	\$109.65
This Year's Total	\$5752.00

The **2nd Collection** to aid the Church in Central & Eastern Europe totaled **\$1616.10**.

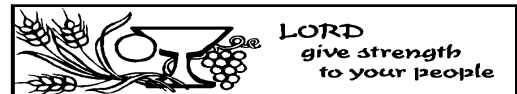
The Collection for Ascension Thursday totaled **\$1753.55**.

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OURSELVES ALONE DIES WITH US; WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR OTHERS AND THE WORLD REMAINS AND IS IMMORTAL."

~ Albert Pike

REMEMBER YOUR BELOVED PARISH


Remember, *"We make a living by what we earn. We make a life by what we share."* Please remember our Parish in your Will as a lasting and loving gift to your parish family. Thank you!



Please pray for all the sick & the homebound members of our Parish, especially Ethel Thomas, Aldina Pereira, Rebecca Conroy, Andy DeFabritis, Maria Marte, Barbara Rup, Jule Yaskovic, Rosalie Heit, Florence B. Swetz, Clare Yaskovic, Neil Caruso, Deacon James Byrnes, Andrea Objay, Carmen Torres, Frank Marra, Deacon Patrick Troy, Josephine Apuzzo, Edith Dugan, Gary Roth, Joyann Allan, Lois Burton, Mary DeStefano, Mark Cianfaglione, Shawn Colon, Margaret Maccia, Nicole Ryan Betancourt, Anthony Spinner, Audrey & Alfred Falcone, Kathleen Hayes, Marge Muraik, Stan Buoninfante, Donna Vasconez, Gene DelBene, Nicole Pisani-Frame, Louis Petruolo, Cynthia Swiatkowitz, Jimmy Maimone, Robert Mirsky, Roseanne Mercandetti, Louis Brusco, Josephine Daniele, Jennifer Dorsey, Valerie Riccardi, Fatima Panik, Joanne Moscarello, Marian Fletcher, Anna Bonacci, Minerva Hernandez, Paula Parente, Barbara Olivieri, Bridget O'Malley, Anna Bruculeri, Peggy Clevenberg, Gerald Mazzerese, Jr., Patricia Keane, Louis Milone, Joey Bastardi, Carol Stola, Amada Ortiz, Karen Aprea, Stephen Sarich, and Neil Cawley,.

Have you returned your Raffle stubs for our Annual Parish Raffle? Additional Chances and Chance Books are available on the bulletin boards at the church entrances, as well as at the Rectory Office during the week. The drawing for a cash prize will take place at the Picnic on Sunday, June 23rd. Good Luck!

MAY 19, 2013

Mass  for the
Intentions Week

Pentecost Sunday

Saturday, May 18 (Vigil Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

Sunday, May 19

8:30 AM Robert Liddell +

10:00 AM Charles & Mary Barba & Son +

11:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

5:00 PM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

Monday, May 20

Weekday

7:00 AM Novena for Our Living & Deceased Mothers

9:00 AM Raffaele Falcone +

Tuesday, May 21

Weekday

7:00 AM Bridget Keohane +

9:00 AM Rocco Salto +

Wednesday, May 22

Weekday

7:00 AM Deceased Members of Bolduc & Savard Families

9:00 AM Gabriel Nanoia +

Thursday, May 23

Weekday

7:00 AM Alexander Trancynger +

9:00 AM Joe Mahon +

Friday, May 24

Weekday

7:00 AM Darlene L. Leone +

9:00 AM Maria Corvino +

Saturday, May 25

Weekday

9:00 AM Timothy O'Sullivan +

Most Holy Trinity Sunday

Saturday, May 25 (Anticipated Mass)

5:00 PM Christine Serricchio Bellino +

Sunday, May 26

8:30 AM For All the People of Our Parish

10:00 AM Thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin Mary

11:30 AM Deceased Members of Terrusa & Legio Families

5:00 PM Anthony P. Fisher, Sr. +

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, fill my heart with Your holy gifts. Let my weakness be penetrated with Your strength this very day that I may fulfill all the duties of my state conscientiously, that I may do what is right and just. Let my charity be such as to offend no one, and hurt no one's feelings; so generous as to pardon sincerely any wrong done to me.



Assist me, O Holy Spirit, in all my trials of life, enlighten me in my ignorance, advise me in my doubts, strengthen me in my weakness, help me in all my needs, protect me in temptations and console me in all afflictions. Graciously hear me, O Holy Spirit, and pour Your light into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Assist me to live a holy life and to grow in goodness and grace. Amen.

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SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Water: The symbolism of water signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, since after the invocation of the Holy Spirit it becomes the efficacious sacramental sign of new birth.

Anointing: The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit.

Fire: While water signifies birth and the fruitfulness of life given in the Holy Spirit, fire symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions.

Cloud and Light: These two images occur together in the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in both Old and New Testaments.

The Seal is a symbol close to that of anointing. "The Father has set His seal" on Christ and also seals us in Him.

The Hand: Jesus heals the sick and blesses little children by laying hands on them. In His name the apostles will do the same.

The Finger: "It is by the finger of God that (Jesus) cast out demons."

The Dove: At the end of the flood, whose symbolism refers to Baptism, a dove released by Noah returns with a fresh olive-tree branch in its beak as a sign that the earth was again habitable.

