

Chaplains' Newsletter



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PENTECOST: THE BIRTH OF A COMMUNITY

What do we read in scripture about Pentecost?



“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (*Acts 2:1-4*)

Regardless of what method of biblical interpretation one adheres to, what is certain is that those who had been gathered in fear and trepidation experience God in a powerful and concrete way.

What happened as a result of this encounter?

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (*Acts 2:42-47*)

So profound was their experience that their lives were radically changed. The needs of others became the needs of all. Prayer was the foundation and strength on which the early church relied and their numbers increased.

What does it remind us today?

“The Holy Spirit is The One who makes each one of us pass from chaos to the cosmos: From disorder, from confusion and from dispersion, to order, unity and beauty, that beauty which consists of being conformed to the will of God and in the image of Christ, in passing from the old person to the new person.” (“Lenten Homily 2009” Father Raniero Cantalamessa OFM, Preacher to Papal Household).

What do you see?

Do you believe that the Spirit continues to be alive and active in our communities and in our hearts?

Great things happened 2000 years ago and great things continue to be seen among us. Look around your neighbourhood, your classrooms, your chapels and in your student clubs. Great things are happening and God’s Spirit continues to work with us in making all things new.

We hope that this edition of The Chaplains’ Newsletter, which celebrates the Descent of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Church, will be helpful in providing leadership in your schools. Again, we are looking to you for direction. Let us know how we can be helpful.

Yours in His Service,

Michael Bechard (Rev.)

Chaplain – King’s University College

Pastor – Christ the King University Parish

FUTURE EDITIONS:

Your feedback is essential. Please let us know what you think of this newsletter and topics that you would like us to address in future issues. We want this newsletter to be something which benefits the great work that we are doing together in support of Catholic Education.

PRAYER SERVICE: THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“The Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.” (Acts 11:15)

Preparation:

Drape the prayer table in red and place a lit candle on it. Add one glass pitcher that is full of water and three empty pitchers. Divide the participants into two groups for the Litany. Select readers.

OPENING PRAYER O Holy Spirit,
 Light your cleansing fire within us.
 Guide us to newness.
 Lead us to living water.
 Show us the way to freedom
 By your power burning within us.
 Amen.

SCRIPTURE Acts 2: 1-11, 16-18

PRAYER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

During this prayer, pour some water from a full pitcher into three empty ones. Each time you pour, say, “Let the Holy Spirit be poured into us and set fire to our souls.” Place the pitchers around the lit candle to reflect the flame and represent the fiery presence of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let the Holy Spirit be poured into us and set fire to our souls.
 O Holy Spirit! Rest your tongue of fire upon us.

Group A: Set alight our souls. Teach us to live according to your Word.

Group B: Show us how we may use your gifts to spread the Good News.

All: Let the Holy Spirit be poured into us and set fire to our souls.

Leader: O Holy Spirit! Provide us with your life-giving water.

Group A: Pour into us wisdom that we may never thirst again.

Group B: Feed us with spiritual knowledge that we may never hunger.

All: Let the Holy Spirit be poured into us and set fire to our souls.

Leader: O Holy Spirit! Form a temple in our hearts.

Group A: Teach us to yearn for holiness

Group B: Reveal to us the way to sacredness.

All: Let the Holy Spirit be poured into us and set fire to our souls. Amen.

REFLECTION

Fire and water are biblical images of the Holy Spirit. In our lives, they represent strong forces in nature that can be both destructive and life giving. The Holy Spirit too, causes flooding or burning away of transgression in our souls. This cleansing reveals a freshness and newness in which our gifts grow and flourish. Through the Holy Spirit, we gain access to God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine at our Eucharistic celebrations become the Body and Blood of our Saviour, Jesus. At this celebration of Pentecost, allow the Holy Spirit to touch your soul once more so you will be blessed by its life-giving power.

CLOSING PRAYER O Holy Spirit,
 Let your fire rest on each one of us.
 Allow your power to give us new life from within.
 Lead us to the springs of life-giving water so that we may cleanse our souls
 and begin new life in you.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen.

IT'S THE 50TH DAY!

Pentecost allows us to continue to celebrate the joy of the Resurrection after Easter Sunday. Here are some ways you can interact with your kids at home or with your students in the classroom:

CELEBRATING AROUND THE TABLE

Let's remember that Pentecost is a time to celebrate with our Christian community. Pentecost, from the Greek word 'fiftieth', began as a way of giving thanks for the first fruits and vegetables that were harvested and offered to God. So here is the perfect time to gather around the table with the fruits of the Holy Spirit. You can set the table with a red or white tablecloth along with small white candle for each person.

ACTIVITIES IN THE CLASSROOM

1) Drama Time!

This is an opportunity to go through each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with your students and acts as a great review for those who have already been confirmed or preparation for those who have not. Use chart paper to go over each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit with your students: love, peace, joy, faith, patience, kindness, and self control. Discuss each of these words, the places they appear in scripture and brainstorm how these seven gifts can be lived out in the students' daily lives. Finally, divide the class into seven groups and have them create a skit on each of the gifts.

2) Class Project: Fruit of the Spirit Board

Make a bulletin board or banner illustrating the *Fruits of the Spirit*. Use paints, felt, cardstock, etc. for the seven gifts. Allow the students to bring in photos or search through magazines for pictures that represent each of the fruits of the Spirit. They could even add personal drawings or stories that remind them of each of the seven gifts!

3) Personal Prayer

While it may seem like a writing assignment to the students, it's an opportunity to get them to look a little deeper into their faith and the role it plays in their lives. They could write about how they see themselves living out the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit or just one or two of them? This could be something they each present to the class or something that is kept between themselves and God.

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK!

After you have taken some time to discuss the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your classroom, have the students lead by example. The older kids could present their skits to the younger kids. After, pair them up with younger children and have the students do a craft with the children proclaiming the presence of the Holy Spirit. For instance, one such example involves red construction paper, safety scissors, paper streamers, ribbon or yarn, tape and a hole-punch. Using the red construction paper draw three or four different size hearts then cut them out. Next tape streamers to the bottom of the hearts. On the top of the hearts, punch holes and string ribbon or yarn through them. The older students can help the younger ones hang them from the window or mount them on sticks for a procession to 'proclaim the presence of the Holy Spirit'.

Adapted from Beth Branigan McNamara, ed. (The Big Book of Catholic Customs and Traditions for Children's Faith Formation, 2003) and LTP's Celebrating the Lectionary for Preschool/Kindergarten 2010-2011 (2010).

CLICKWORTHY

"Clickworthy" features websites that may be useful to your ministry as well as to the school communities that you serve. If you know of any web resources that you would like to share, please send your suggestions to us.

DAILY READINGS SITE (U.S. CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS)

<http://www.usccb.org/nab/>

The Daily Readings Site compiled by the U.S. Bishops make readily available the lectionary readings for each day, both in text and audio formats. In addition, podcasts and video reflections for a number of the readings are offered.

ST. ANTHONY MESSENGER PRESS (AMERICAN CATHOLIC.ORG)

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Features/SaintofDay/>

AmericanCatholic.org, is a service of St. Anthony Messenger Press and Franciscan Communications. On this site you will find reliable information on the Catholic and Christian faith. Much of this comes through the online edition of their principal publication, St. Anthony Messenger. There are a number of resources for personal reflection and prayer, such as Saint of the Day (you can receive the reflection of the Saint of the Day sent to your e-mail) and Minute Meditations. The site also offers Catholic e-cards for all occasions.

GETTING READY FOR PENTECOST IN THE CLASSROOM

Pentecost is a wonderful time of exhilaration for our Church. Just as the Holy Spirit breathed renewed life and energy into the disciples long ago in that upper room in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit also breathes new life into the Church today – we can help young people experience that renewing and revivifying energy in their lives as Christians.

A reflection on the Pentecost story can help rekindle the fire in their hearts. An outline for such a program is available from Insight: Reflection and Resources on Christian Youth Ministry and Leadership (<http://insight.typepad.co.uk/insight/2008/05/pentecost---a-y.html>). Students are encouraged to examine the experience of each of the participants in the Pentecost story from the perspective of one of the believers in the upper room, a God-fearing Jew, as one of those who mocked the Christians, as Peter, or as one of the new believers and a member of the early church. The exercise concludes by asking us to consider the effects of the coming of the Holy Spirit - how did people react to its coming? Where do we see the Holy Spirit at work today? And do people react any differently to the Spirit today than they did then?

Traditionally the symbols of the Spirit include wind, flames, breath and red. There are a variety of ways that students can engage with these symbols from wearing red to creating kites. Students could also participate in a fun red balloon mayhem event – have each student blow up a red balloon (or two depending on the level of chaos you would like to have ensue!). Set all the balloons “loose” in a room and then watch them move in a free-for-all fashion that can be likened to the movement of the spirit- moving where ever it may, uncontrolled, free - flowing. For more suggestions see the American Catholic website (<http://www.americancatholic.org/messenger/jun2003/Family.asp>). If the group you work with happens to be interested in art you may wish to have them create an unplanned work of art – place a large roll of paper on the floor, provide paints/markers/pencil crayons or whatever art supplies you would like and allow students to exercise creative license! Stand back and see how the Spirit has moved the group.

This feast marks a transition time in the life of the Church as we move from Easter to Ordinary Time. However, it is important to remember that Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary. Having been renewed throughout Lent and the Easter experience, Pentecost draws us together and forms community, just as it did for the Apostles in the upper room. Teenagers have a profound understanding of and need for community. Pentecost provides a wonderful opportunity to highlight and re-affirm the positive and rich communities young people are part of through a variety of activities such as creating human knots and other team building opportunities. (For my more ideas see *Youth Spirit 2: More Program Ideas for Youth Groups* by Cheryl Perry (2002) available from Chapters online). It is essential that young people have a strong sense of their community and that we aid them in fostering this connection, rooting them both in who they are and *whose* they are. From this place they will be able to reach out to their communities – at school, their neighbourhood, and cities. Only then will they discover their identity as disciples, empowered by The Holy Spirit to build up the Kingdom of God.

As we move into Ordinary Time, Sunday’s liturgical readings increasingly focus on how we live out the Christian Life to which we are called. Spend time with students reflecting on these readings through *Lectio Divina*. Ask students to focus on the one word or phrase that stands out for them. Share their word or phrase in a small group of 3 or 4 (only the words are shared – no discussion should take place). Read the chosen Gospel passage once more, asking students to share in a small group how this passage intersects or relates to their life at this time. Once more each person can share a couple of sentences, still with no discussion should be taking place. Read the Gospel passage one last time and then ask people to reflect on what God is saying to them right now. Have them simply state their understanding in their small groups. This process allows them to reflect on the Gospel for the coming Sunday and will also allow them to reflect on their own life journey and how it is interwoven with the life of the Church.

It would also be an excellent idea to have the students name ways in which they can concretely live the Christian lives they are called to live. Some ideas may include purchasing fair trade projects, exploring consumerism (Young Adults Works produced by the Centre for Ministry Development provides an excellent resource for a program on this topic), or getting involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities available in local communities.

Pentecost has also been named the Church’s Birthday. Have students give the Church a birthday present: the gift of themselves. Encourage them to be active participants in their local church communities. Working with students directly gives you the unique opportunity to identify students who are well suited to taking on ministries of hospitality, lector, or volunteering with programs for children etc.

Pentecost is a wonderful opportunity to empower students to put their Faith in Action – rooted in prayer, renewed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit to live the extra-ordinary lives we are called to live as Christians.

SAINTS FOR THE SEASON

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Divine Mercy Sunday	2 St. Athanasius	3 St. Philip & St. James	4 Blessed Marie- Leonie Paradis	5	6 Blessed Francois de Laval	7
8 Third Sunday of Easter	9	10	11	12 St. Nereus & St. Achilleus	13 Our Lady of Fatima	14 St. Matthias
15 Fourth Sunday of Easter	16	17	18 St. John I	19	20 St. Bernardine of Siena	21 St. Eugene de Mazenod
22 Fifth Sunday of Easter	23	24 Blessed Louis-Zephirin Moreau	25 St. Bede the Venerable	26 St. Philip Neri	27 St. Augustine of Canterbury	28 St. Germain
29 Sixth Sunday in Easter	30	31 Visitation of Mary				

Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis (1840-1912): Blessed Marie-Leonie was born Elodie Paradis in L'Acadie, Quebec to poor but very devout parents. They wanted Elodie to have a quality education and sent her to boarding school with the Sisters of Notre Dame. While her father was away in California trying to make his fortune on the gold rush, Elodie joined the Holy Cross convent in 1854. Upon his return, Elodie's father begged her to come home but she remained steadfast in her commitment to religious life. Finally, with her father's consent, Elodie professed her vows in 1857, taking the name Marie-Leonie.

From there, Sister Marie-Leonie spent some years teaching before settling in New Brunswick where she founded the Little Sisters of the Holy Family in 1880 who dedicate their service to the priesthood. The Little Sisters of the Holy Family now have 67 convents in

Canada, U.S.A., Rome and Honduras.

Blessed Lord, who came to serve and not to be served, we thank you for the holy life and legacy of Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis. Inspired by her example, may we seek and find ways to help others, no matter how insignificant these ways might seem, for no good work lacks sacred worth. For you reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit in glory. Amen.

Other important dates in May:

- May 1: International Workers' Day
- May 8: Mothers' Day
- May 12: Canada Health Day
- May 15: World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- May 24: World Day of Prayer for the Church in China
- May 29: The Pope's Pastoral Works



Blessed Francois de Laval (1623-1708): Blessed Francois was the first Roman Catholic bishop of New France and some historians even refer to him as the father of the Canadian Church. Upon his arrival in New France, Blessed Francois founded a seminary in Quebec, which was the foundation for a strong and independent infrastructure in New France that was not dependent upon the support of France. He supported the local education of priests, parish appointments by pleasure rather than by permanent appointment and was responsible for the construction of schools and churches. He encouraged missionary activity to the indigenous peoples, especially that activity involving the Jesuits. He was known for his zealotness and inflexibility in matters of morality and the defence of the essential elements of the faith.

Lord Jesus, it is with great confidence that we pray to blessed François de Laval, whom you chose to send to our country to announce the good News of salvation. Through his intercession, please grant us the favours we now implore. Give us the grace to imitate his audacity, his perseverance, and his complete surrender to Providence, and, if it be Your Will, may he soon be counted among the saints. We ask this in Your name, You who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Other important dates in June:

- June 5: World Communications Day
- June 19: Fathers' Day

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 St. Justin	2	3 St. Charles Lwanga & Companions	4
5 Ascension of the Lord	6 St. Norbert	7	8	9 St. Ephrem	10 St. Barnabas	11
12 Pentecost Sunday	13 St. Anthony of Padua	14	15	16	17	18
19 Trinity Sunday	20	21 St. Aloysius Gonzaga	22 Sts. John Fisher & Thomas More	23	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25
26 Corpus Christi	27 St. Cyril of Alexandria	28 St. Irenaeus	29 Sts. Peter & Paul	30 1st Martyrs of the Church of Rome		

PERSONALIZING THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Acts of Apostles, the Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost and moves the Disciples to “go out,” spread the good news and be Church for the world. This is ultimately what each of us is called to every single day of our lives. Sometimes the “how” we do this can be less tangible. It is important to help “concretize” this for young people.

To “put a face” on the Holy Spirit and what it means to live as Disciples of the Church today, invite 3 or 4 panelists to discuss this with students in a class or a smaller group setting. Chose people who you know are active members within their parish communities and who live the Gospel values outside the walls of the Church, in their places of employment and the community at large. The purpose of this panel is to emphasize that discipleship needs to be lived in all areas of life, and applies to all ages (a mixed age group of panelists is ideal). Try to chose panelists who are involved in occupations that some of the students are aspiring too, or panelists that are involved in areas that interest your students. If you are not sure who to invite, your local church parish team should be able to assist. People you approach to be panelists may have difficulty seeing their suitability to this position but let them know you are not looking for “perfect people,” rather it is their ongoing struggle to be a disciple of Christ that will make them credible with the youth.

Ask panelists to prepare a brief (5 – 10 minute) personal reflection about discipleship and what it means to them to be a disciple of Christ. This should include who they are and what they do. Also, it should include a brief reflection on their faith and their vision of ministry. This could include their vision of Jesus, and what Jesus calls them to personally and Jesus’ expectations of them. They should also share how they try to live as disciples of Christ in their work place, their families, and in their communities. Do they find this difficult? How is this rewarding? Lastly they should share some examples or a story that exemplifies how they live as disciples of Christ. Once all the panelists have shared their stories invite questions from the students. Once the panelists have left ask the students how they have been inspired or challenged to live as disciples now and in their future.



“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)

“Pentecost” by Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308)

HYMN SUGGESTIONS FOR PENTECOST / CONFIRMATION

CBW = Catholic Book of Worship III (1994); G = Gather, 2nd Edition (1994); GP = Glory & Praise (1984)

When you look through any hymnal, songs to the Holy Spirit abound, so the task is to use them judiciously. One can easily be tempted to overuse Holy Spirit hymns on this day. Singing one at the beginning and one during the preparation of the gifts should suffice. Other appropriate songs to consider are those about the mission of the church, discipleship, or the unity of the church.

Gathering/Recessional Songs:

- Come Holy Spirit, Creator Blest – CBW 416
- Dwelling Place – G418, GP63
- Everyone moved by the Spirit – GP68
- Go to the World – CBW508
- Jubilate, servite – CBW 572, G 377
- Lord, you give the great commission – CBW 691
- O Holy Spirit, By Whose Breath – G412
- Now let us from this table rise – CBW 521
- Send Down the Fire – G327
- Send Out Your Spirit – CBW, G324
- Sing a new song – CBW 563, G 384, GP
- The Spirit is a-movin’ – GP205
- Spirit of God, come to us – GP 207
- The Summons – G 510
- You Have Anointed Me – G483, GP81

Suggested Responsorial Psalm:

- 104 (Lord, send out your spirit) – CBW107, G90, GP

Preparation of the Gifts:

- Come to us, creative Spirit – CBW 416
- God has chosen me – G 488
- Send me, Jesus/Thuma Mina – G 484
- Spirit Blowing Through Creation – CBW 415, G325
- Spirit of God – GP206
- Veni Creator Spiritus – CBW418
- Veni Sancte Spiritus (Taizé) – G326
- We Are Many Parts – G530
- Who Calls You By Name – CBW618
- You are God’s Work of Art – G582

PRAYERS FOR PENTECOST

Pentecost coincided with the great annual festival that the Jewish people celebrated. This was a celebration of the harvest and the reception of the Torah on Mount Sinai. It was on this day that a great event took place. Through the outburst of the Holy Spirit, which came, both as the sound of wind and the visible sign of tongues of fire, the disciples gained great confidence and courage. They spoke in languages that had no prior knowledge of. Those who witnessed this event were amazed. We do not often receive such strong visible signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit. However we know that the Spirit dwells within us, enabling us to do great things.

Spirit of God, may we, as your followers, feel the courage and faith that the disciples felt at Pentecost. May we too become heralds of your gospel; speaking and living unceasingly the message that Jesus gave us on earth. May our minds and hearts always be open to you and may our words and actions help to transform people of all nations. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend that is holy;
Guard me then O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy.

- St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

CLASSROOM PRAYER

Dear Holy Spirit,
enlighten us, protect us, direct us, and govern us.
Fill us with the courage to speak the Good News,
with peace to live the Good News,
and with the joy to rejoice in the Good News.
Be in our lives as we leave the life of winter
and begin our summer.
Help us to renew the face of the earth. Amen

- G. Cronin (*Celebrating the Gospels*, 2003)

Campus Ministry at King's University College invites you to



Prayer with the Songs of Taizé

1st, 3rd and 5th Monday of every month @ 7:00PM
Christ the King Chapel (Wemple Building)
at King's University College.

MAY WELCOME DAY
1:00PM - 3:30PM
Saturday May 14, 2011

Students and their families, friends and teachers are invited to join us for a taste of the King's experience.

Members of faculty, administration, and student services will be here to talk with you and tours will be offered all afternoon. Please confirm your attendance by emailing kings@uwo.ca or by registering online at www.kingsconnect.ca



The Centre for Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Learning at King's University College presents...

Behind Our Doors
A Holocaust Memoir

DATE TBD
Jewish Community Centre
536 Huron Street

The Centre for Jewish-Catholic-Muslim Learning and Althouse Press are pleased to invite you to the official booklaunch of *Behind Our Doors*, the story of the Warmerdams, a Catholic family who risked their lives in occupied Holland during World War II to hide dozens of Jewish children.

The Memoir and accompanying study guide are intended to be used in schools as a tool for Holocaust education. For more information, email cjcm1@kings.uwo.ca

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